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General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 12 and 32

Prevention of armed conflict

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Letter dated 16 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the resolution of the Parliament of Georgia of 15 February 2006 on the current situation and conduct of peacekeeping operations in the Former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12 and 32.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-24894 (E) 220206

Annex to the letter dated 16 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia on the current situation and conduct of peacekeeping operations in the Former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia

The Parliament of Georgia, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution of the Parliament of Georgia No. 1927-II of 11 October 2005, on the current situation in the conflict regions on the territory of Georgia and ongoing peace operations, has conducted hearings on the report of the Government of Georgia concerning the current situation in the former autonomous district of South Ossetia and the fulfilment of duties undertaken by peacekeeping forces deployed in the region.

Following the above-mentioned report, the Parliament of Georgia decides:

1. To assess extremely negatively the fulfilment of the obligations under the mandate undertaken by the peacekeeping forces deployed in the former autonomous district of South Ossetia, as well as to assess actions of the Russian Federation as an ongoing attempt at annexation of this region of Georgia;

2. To instruct the Government of Georgia to enact procedures for starting the implementation of the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 6 of the resolution of the Parliament of Georgia No. 1927-II of 11 October 2005, including the revision of the Sochi Agreement of 24 June 1992, aimed at replacing peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation deployed in the former autonomous district of South Ossetia by an effective international peacekeeping operation;

3. To instruct the Government of Georgia to intensify cooperation with international organizations and partner States to elaborate a new format of conflict resolution, in order to avoid possible destabilization attempts on the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia, to secure peace and stability in the conflict zone, to halt massive violations of basic principles of human rights and freedoms and to launch a genuine peaceful conflict settlement process;

4. To instruct the Government of Georgia, with a view to a comprehensive, peaceful, political settlement of the conflict on the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia, to increase further its active cooperation with international organizations and partner States to launch the implementation of the peace plan approved by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

5. To instruct the Government of Georgia to provide the international organizations, the Russian Federation and partner States with factual information on the situation in the former autonomous district of South Ossetia and the fulfilment of the duties of the peacekeeping forces deployed there.

Nino **Burjanadze**
Chair of the Parliament of Georgia

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 26 February the people of Azerbaijan will commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces massacred the civilian population and ruined the town of Khojaly. This crime led to the death of 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men; 1,275 persons were taken hostage, and the fate of more than 150 remains unknown.

The magnitude of this crime was reported by numerous sources.

The Independent reported: "Elif Kaban, a Reuters correspondent in Aghdam, reported that after a massacre, Azeris were burying scores of people who died when Armenians overran the town of Khojaly, the second-biggest Azeri settlement in the area. 'The world is turning its back on what's happening here. We are dying and you are just watching', one mourner shouted at a group of journalists."[1]

The Age (Melbourne, Australia) reported: "The exact number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by the Armenian Army in the snowy mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh last week".[2]

Pascal Privat and Steve Le Vine of *Newsweek* in the article "The face of massacre" reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25-26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped".[3]

[1] *The Independent*, 29 February 1992.
[2] *The Age*, 6 March 1992.
[3] *Newsweek*, 16 March 1992.

06-24888 (E) 230206

Jill Smolowe of *Time* magazine in her article "Massacre in Khojaly" provided the following information: "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighbouring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths — the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children — is unknown".[4]

The Khojaly Genocide must not be forgotten, and its perpetrators must and will be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 40 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

[4] *Time*, 16 March 1992.

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General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 49
Information and communication technologies for development

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/220, the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the World Summit on the Information Society.

06-27241 (E) 160306

Report of the World Summit on the Information Society

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly Resolution 59/220, which invites the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to transmit to the General Assembly the Report of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Therefore, I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society that took place from 16 to 18 November 2005 has come to a successful close in Tunis. The assembled world leaders, with the input of leading representatives from the private sector and civil society, agreed on the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

The ITU has been proud to serve as the lead organizing agency of WSIS. The WSIS process has produced concrete and far-reaching results that should facilitate our collective efforts to bridge the Digital Divide and that clearly recognize the vital importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to economic and social development in the 21st century. WSIS is complementary to the Millennium Process, as it promotes new steps that will help to meet many of the Millennium Development goals. WSIS has demonstrated that the Information Society revolution can promote well-being, progress and further sustainable economic development and ICTs have been recognized as a central theme of national, regional and international development policies.

The ITU was founded in 1865 and became the specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947. Connecting the world has been a key focus of the Union since its inception and the WSIS process has enabled world leaders to address, for the first time, the broad and profound implications of the communications revolution on the future of society. The use of ICTs as a key enabler of development touches on the mandates of many UN agencies and presents a unique challenge for the UN system. At the same time, ITU welcomes the many and diverse roles that it has been tasked with in the Geneva and Tunis instruments and will endeavour to fulfill the high expectations of world leaders.

Principal outputs

To start, WSIS has contributed to a better understanding of the key issues and challenges of the Information Society. Throughout the WSIS process, critical issues such as infrastructure, capacity building, regulatory environment, and financing have been discussed and refined. Pioneering work on financing ICTs for development and on Internet Governance has resulted in the most comprehensive international documents ever endorsed on these topics at the international level.

In the first phase in Geneva in 2003, Governments agreed to a Declaration that set forth the key principles and issues of the Information Society and endorsed at the highest political level the importance of ICTs as a critical enabler of national development. The Geneva Plan of Action established critical targets for global connectivity by 2015 and 11 key Action Lines.

The Tunis outputs take this process further. The Tunis Commitment reaffirms the Declaration and highlights some new developments since the Geneva Phase, including the importance of ICTs for children and the link between ICTs and Peace.

The Tunis Agenda addresses three fundamental issues:

- In the area of Internet Governance, the Agenda represents the first global agreement on key aspects of this revolution in communications, and sets forth a process to discuss and resolve important public policy issues concerning the Internet.
- To bridge the Digital Divide, the Agenda sets forth important principles and actions to ensure that the necessary funding is obtained to provide all citizens with affordable access to communications.
- Finally, the Tunis Agenda provides specific steps to turn "principles into actions". The Agenda establishes a thorough process for implementation and follow-up of the WSIS outputs. The text is consistent with the important commitments made by world leaders at the September Summit to reform parts of the UN, as well as UNGA Resolution 59/270B, and should thereby contribute to ongoing reform of ECOSOC.

Main Innovations

The WSIS process has been a bold attempt to address the issues raised by ICTs in the context of a UN Summit, while embracing an inclusive and multistakeholder approach designed to reflect the multidisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of these issues.

To ensure that all stakeholders could express their views, new processes were developed in WSIS. This inclusive approach is directly in line with the objectives of fostering greater involvement of the private sector and civil society in the work of the UN system. It was accomplished through a general understanding among Governments to allow International Organizations and accredited civil society and business entities enhanced opportunities to express their views during the PrepComs and to submit written contributions that were integrated in the negotiation documents.

The participation of private sector and civil society entities in WSIS has been continuously expanding. The Tunis Summit attracted 1500 participants from International Organizations, more than 6200 from non-governmental organizations and civil society entities, and more than 4800 from business sector entities, as well as 970 from the media.

WSIS was organized on an inclusive basis. The ITU was assisted in Summit preparations by the establishment of a tripartite Executive Secretariat, which included experts from International Organizations, private companies, and civil society. The High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC), which the Secretary-General of the ITU had the privilege to chair, was established by the CEB. It met regularly to discuss Summit coordination activities among the UN agencies. In the Tunis Preparatory Phase, members of HLSOC again demonstrated that they could join forces to address important issues of the Information Society.

The two-phase process of WSIS facilitated concrete actions and real accountability. The stocktaking database developed by the ITU and the WSIS Executive Secretariat provides an inventory of activities undertaken by governments and other stakeholders since 2003 to implement the Geneva Action Plan and presently includes more than 2600 projects. In addition, the Golden Book maintained by ITU, which is intended to promote new commitments and initiatives that stakeholders announced during the Tunis Phase, contains more than 375 entries.

WSIS has been largely self-financed. The General Assembly did not allocate any funding for the Summit. The ITU governing bodies provided modest sums. A large part of Summit expenses was met through voluntary contributions and through the support of the two host countries.

Implementation and follow-up

The Tunis Agenda expressly recognizes that the time has come to turn "principles into actions". In that context and in line with UNGA Resolution 57/270b, it assigned a major role in the implementation and follow-up to many parts of the UN System, in addition to governments and other stakeholders.

Pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP have been asked to organize meetings on the modalities of facilitation moderation of the 11 Action Lines. The Tunis documents emphasize the need to adopt a multistakeholder approach to implementation activities, with the full engagement of the private sector and civil society, in keeping with the preparatory process for the Summit. The CEB has been asked to establish a UN Group on the Information Society. System-wide follow-up of WSIS outcomes has been requested of ECOSOC, including reform of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). The UN-SG will convene a Forum on Internet Governance in Greece in 2006.

Effective and efficient actions to obtain concrete results require a clear division of labor among the different UN entities, as stipulated in the Tunis Agenda. In this light, the UN Secretary General will report to the UNGA through ECOSOC, by June 2006, on the modalities of interagency coordination of the implementation of WSIS outcomes including recommendations on the follow-up process.

In closing, allow me to express my deepest appreciation for the constant support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations throughout the WSIS process and for his active participation in Tunis. I also wish to thank the UN offices in Geneva, in particular the Director-General, Mr. Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze and his staff, for their valuable contributions, as well as the helpful participation of many UN agencies in Summit preparations through HLSOC and the CEB.

We now face the critical challenge of continuing, by our actions and leadership, to advance towards achieving the goals and objectives agreed in Geneva and Tunis.

Yoshio UTSUMI
Secretary-General
ITU

world summit
on the information society
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

ITU

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WSIS Executive Secretariat

Report of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis, Kram Palexpo, 16-18 November 2005

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CHAPTER I

Resolutions adopted by the Summit (Tunis Phase)

A. Tunis Commitment

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tunis Phase, at its Eighth Plenary Meeting, 18 November 2005, adopted the following document (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7):

TUNIS COMMITMENT

1. **We, the representatives of the peoples of the world,** have gathered in Tunis from 16-18 November 2005 for this second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to reiterate our unequivocal support for the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003.

2. **We reaffirm** our desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. **We reaffirm** the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration. **We also reaffirm** that democracy, sustainable development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as good governance at all levels are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. **We further resolve** to strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs.

4. **We reaffirm** paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles. **We recognize** that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas, and knowledge, are essential for the Information Society and beneficial to development.

5. The Tunis Summit represents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can bring to humanity and the manner in which they can transform people's activities, interaction and lives, and thus increase confidence in the future.

6. This Summit is an important stepping-stone in the world's efforts to eradicate poverty and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. By the Geneva decisions, we established a coherent long-term link between the WSIS process, and other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits. **We call upon** governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations to join together to implement the commitments set forth in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action. In this context, the outcomes of the recently concluded *2005 World Summit on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration* are of special relevance.

7. **We reaffirm the commitments made in Geneva** and build on them in Tunis by focusing on financial mechanisms for bridging the digital divide, on Internet governance and related issues, as well as on follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, as referenced in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

8. While reaffirming the important roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders as outlined in paragraph 3 of the Geneva Plan of Action, **we acknowledge** the key role and responsibilities of governments in the WSIS process.

9. **We reaffirm our resolution** in the quest to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that ICTs can offer, by recalling that governments, as well as private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, should work together to: improve access to information and communication infrastructure and technologies as well as to information and knowledge; build capacity; increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs; create an enabling environment at all levels; develop and widen ICT applications; foster and respect cultural diversity; recognize the role of the media; address the ethical dimensions of the Information Society; and encourage international and regional cooperation. **We confirm** that these are the key principles for building an inclusive Information Society, the elaboration of which is found in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.

10. **We recognize** that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contributes significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping all countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. This process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information. **We underline** the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, in particular, in developing countries.

11. Furthermore, ICTs are making it possible for a vastly larger population than at any time in the past to join in sharing and expanding the base of human knowledge, and contributing to its further growth in all spheres of human endeavour as well as its application to education, health and science. ICTs have enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education, and to facilitate the learning process itself, thus laying the groundwork for the establishment of a fully inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and knowledge economy which respects cultural and linguistic diversity.

12. **We emphasize** that the adoption of ICTs by enterprises plays a fundamental role in economic growth. The growth and productivity enhancing effects of well-implemented investments in ICTs can lead to increased trade and to more and better employment. For this reason, both enterprise development and labour market policies play a fundamental role in the adoption of ICTs. **We invite** governments and the private sector to enhance the capacity of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), since they furnish the greatest number of jobs in most economies. **We shall work together**, with all stakeholders, to put in place the necessary policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that foster entrepreneurship, particularly for SMMEs.

13. **We also recognize** that the ICT revolution can have a tremendous positive impact as an instrument of sustainable development. In addition, an appropriate enabling environment at national and international levels could prevent increasing social and economic divisions, and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries, regions, and individuals—including between men and women.

14. **We also recognize** that in addition to building ICT infrastructure, there should be adequate emphasis on developing human capacity and creating ICT applications and digital content in local language, where appropriate, so as to ensure a comprehensive approach to building a global Information Society.

15. Recognizing the principles of universal and non-discriminatory access to ICTs for all nations, the need to take into account the level of social and economic development of each country, and respecting the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society, **we underscore** that ICTs are effective tools to promote peace, security and stability, to enhance democracy, social

cohesion, good governance and the rule of law, at national, regional and international levels. ICTs can be used to promote economic growth and enterprise development. Infrastructure development, human capacity building, information security and network security are critical to achieve these goals. **We further recognize** the need to effectively confront challenges and threats resulting from use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure within States, to the detriment of their security. It is necessary to prevent the abuse of information resources and technologies for criminal and terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights.

16. **We further commit ourselves** to evaluate and follow up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account different levels of development, so as to reach internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to assess the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the Information Society.

17. **We urge governments**, using the potential of ICTs, to create public systems of information on laws and regulations, envisaging a wider development of public access points and supporting the broad availability of this information.

18. **We shall strive** unremittingly, therefore, to promote universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to ICTs, including universal design and assistive technologies, for all people, especially those with disabilities, everywhere, to ensure that the benefits are more evenly distributed between and within societies, and to bridge the digital divide in order to create digital opportunities for all and benefit from the potential offered by ICTs for development.

19. The international community should take necessary measures to ensure that all countries of the world have equitable and affordable access to ICTs, so that their benefits in the fields of socio-economic development and bridging the digital divide are truly inclusive.

20. To that end, **we shall pay particular attention** to the special needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups of society including migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees, unemployed and underprivileged people, minorities and nomadic people, older persons and persons with disabilities.

21. To that end, **we shall pay special attention** to the particular needs of people of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, Highly Indebted Poor Countries, countries and territories under occupation, and countries recovering from conflict or natural disasters.

22. In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy.

23. **We recognize** that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide in society and **we reaffirm our commitment** to women's empowerment and to a gender equality perspective, so that we can overcome this divide. **We further acknowledge** that the full participation of women in the Information Society is necessary to ensure the inclusiveness and respect for human rights within the Information Society. **We encourage** all stakeholders to support women's participation in decision-making processes and to contribute to shaping all spheres of the Information Society at international, regional and national levels.

24. **We recognize** the role of ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children. **We will strengthen action** to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs. In that context, **we emphasize** that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration.

25. **We reaffirm our commitment** to empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive Information Society. **We will actively engage** youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes.

26. **We recognize** the importance of creative content and applications to overcome the digital divide and to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

27. **We recognize** that equitable and sustainable access to information requires the implementation of strategies for the long-term preservation of the digital information that is being created.

28. **We reaffirm our desire** to build ICT networks and develop applications, in partnership with the private sector, based on open or interoperable standards that are affordable and accessible to all, available anywhere and anytime, to anyone and on any device, leading to a ubiquitous network.

29. **Our conviction** is that governments, the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic community, and users can utilize various technologies and licensing models, including those developed under proprietary schemes and those developed under open-source and free modalities, in accordance with their interests and with the need to have reliable services and implement effective programmes for their people. Taking into account the importance of proprietary software in the markets of the countries, **we reiterate** the need to encourage and foster collaborative development, interoperative platforms and free and open-source software, in ways that reflect the possibilities of different software models, notably for education, science and digital inclusion programmes.

30. Recognizing that disaster mitigation can significantly support efforts to bring about sustainable development and help in poverty reduction, **we reaffirm our commitment** to leveraging ICT capabilities and potential through fostering and strengthening cooperation at the national, regional, and international levels.

31. **We commit ourselves** to work together towards the implementation of the Digital Solidarity Agenda, as agreed in paragraph 27 of the Geneva Plan of Action. The full and quick implementation of that agenda, observing good governance at all levels, requires in particular a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries where appropriate, a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, that can also stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development, as well as, to seek and effectively implement concrete international approaches and mechanisms to increase international cooperation and assistance to bridge the digital divide.

32. **We further commit** ourselves to promote the inclusion of all peoples in the Information Society through the development and use of local and or indigenous languages in ICTs. **We will continue** our efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity, as well as cultural identities, within the Information Society.

33. **We acknowledge** that, while technical cooperation can help, capacity building at all levels is needed to ensure that the required institutional and individual expertise is available.

34. **We recognize the need for, and strive to mobilize resources**, both human and financial, in accordance with chapter two of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, to enable us to increase the use of ICT for development and realize the short-, medium- and long-term plans dedicated to building the Information Society as follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of WSIS.

35. **We recognize** the central role of public policy in setting the framework in which resource mobilization can take place.

36. **We value** the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, *inter alia*, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction.

37. **We are convinced** that our goals can be accomplished through the involvement, cooperation and partnership of governments and other stakeholders, i.e. the private sector, civil society and international organizations, and that international cooperation and solidarity at all levels are indispensable if the fruits of the Information Society are to benefit all.

38. **Our efforts** should not stop with the conclusion of the Summit. The emergence of the global Information Society to which we all contribute provides increasing opportunities for all our peoples and for an inclusive global community that were unimaginable only a few years ago. **We must harness** these opportunities today and support their further development and progress.

39. **We reaffirm** our strong resolve to develop and implement an effective and sustainable response to the challenges and opportunities of building a truly global Information Society that benefits all our peoples.

40. **We strongly believe** in the full and timely implementation of the decisions we took in Geneva and Tunis, as outlined in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

B. Tunis Agenda for the Information Society

The World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis Phase, at its Eighth Plenary Meeting, 18 November 2005, adopted the following document (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)):

TUNIS AGENDA FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

1. **We recognize** that it is now time to move from principles to action, considering the work already being done in implementing the Geneva Plan of Action and identifying those areas where progress has been made, is being made, or has not taken place.

2. **We reaffirm the commitments** made in Geneva and build on them in Tunis by focusing on financial mechanisms for bridging the digital divide, on Internet governance and related issues, as well as on implementation and follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis decisions.

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

3. **We thank** the UN Secretary-General for his efforts in creating the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and we commend the members on their report.

4. **We recall** that the mandate of the TFFM was to undertake a thorough review of the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of ICT for development.

5. The TFFM report sets out the complexity of existing mechanisms, both private and public, which provide financing for ICTs in developing countries. It identifies areas where these could be improved and where ICTs could be given higher priority by developing countries and their development partners.

6. Based on the conclusion of the review of the report, **we have considered** the improvements and innovations of financial mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles.

7. **We recognize** the existence of the digital divide and the challenges that this poses for many countries, which are forced to choose between many competing objectives in their development planning and in demands for development funds whilst having limited resources.

8. **We recognize** the scale of the problem in bridging the digital divide, which will require adequate and sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services, and capacity building, and transfer of technology over many years to come.

9. **We call upon the international community** to promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, including ICTs, to adopt policies and programmes with a view to assisting developing countries to take advantage of technology in their pursuit of development through, *inter alia*, technical cooperation and the building of scientific and technological capacity in our efforts to bridge the digital and development divides.

10. **We recognize** that the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, are fundamental. The Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development is the basis for the pursuit of adequate and appropriate financial mechanisms to promote ICT for development, in accordance with the Digital Solidarity Agenda of the Geneva Plan of Action.

11. **We recognize and acknowledge** the special and specific funding needs of the developing world, as referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles*, which faces numerous challenges in the ICT sector, and that there is strong need to focus on their special financing needs to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

12. **We agree** that the financing of ICT for development needs to be placed in the context of the growing importance of the role of ICTs, not only as a medium of communication, but also as a development enabler, and as a tool for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

13. In the past, financing of ICT infrastructure in most developing countries has been based on public investment. Lately, a significant influx of investment has taken place where private-sector participation has been encouraged, based on a sound regulatory framework, and where public policies aimed at bridging the digital divide have been implemented.

14. **We are greatly encouraged** by the fact that advances in communication technology, and high-speed data networks are continuously increasing the possibilities for developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to participate in the global market for ICT-enabled services on the basis of their comparative advantage. These emerging opportunities provide a powerful commercial basis for ICT infrastructural investment in these countries. Therefore, governments should take action, in the framework of national development policies, in order to support an enabling and competitive environment for the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services. At the same time, countries should pursue policies and measures that would not discourage, impede or prevent the continued participation of these countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services.

15. **We take note** that the challenges for expanding the scope of useful accessible information content in the developing world are numerous; in particular, the issue of financing for various forms of content and applications requires new attention, as this area has often been overlooked by the focus on ICT infrastructure.

16. **We recognize** that attracting investment in ICTs has depended crucially upon an enabling environment, including good governance at all levels, and a supportive, transparent and pro-competitive policy and regulatory framework, reflecting national realities.

17. **We endeavour** to engage in a proactive dialogue on matters related to corporate social responsibility and good corporate governance of transnational corporations and their contribution to the economic and social development of developing countries in our efforts to bridge the digital divide.

18. **We underline** that market forces alone cannot guarantee the full participation of developing countries in the global market for ICT-enabled services. Therefore, **we encourage** the strengthening of international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially those referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, to develop ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled services that are viable and competitive at national and international levels.

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* For reference, Paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles reads as follows:
We continue to pay special attention to the particular needs of people of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries, Highly Indebted Poor Countries, countries and territories under occupation, countries recovering from conflict and countries and regions with special needs as well as to conditions that pose severe threats to development, such as natural disasters.

19. **We recognize that**, in addition to the public sector, financing of ICT infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and South-South cooperation.

20. **We recognize** that, as a result of the growing impact of sustainable private-sector investment in infrastructure, multilateral and bilateral public donors are redirecting public resources to other development objectives, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and related programmes, policy reforms and mainstreaming of ICTs and capacity development. **We encourage** all governments to give appropriate priority to ICTs, including traditional ICTs such as broadcast radio and television, in their national development strategies. **We also encourage** multilateral institutions as well as bilateral public donors to consider also providing more financial support for regional and large-scale national ICT infrastructure projects and related capacity development. They should consider aligning their aid and partnership strategies with the priorities set by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their national development strategies including their poverty reduction strategies.

21. **We recognize** that public finance plays a crucial role in providing ICT access and services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations including those in Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries.

22. **We note** that ICT-related capacity-building needs represent a high priority in all developing countries and the current financing levels have not been adequate to meet the needs, although there are many different funding mechanisms supporting ICTs for development.

23. **We recognize** that there are a number of areas in need of greater financial resources and where current approaches to ICT for development financing have devoted insufficient attention to date. These include:

a) ICT capacity-building programmes, materials, tools, educational funding and specialized training initiatives, especially for regulators and other public-sector employees and organizations.

b) Communications access and connectivity for ICT services and applications in remote rural areas, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and other locations presenting unique technological and market challenges.

c) Regional backbone infrastructure, regional networks, Network Access Points and related regional projects, to link networks across borders and in economically disadvantaged regions which may require coordinated policies including legal, regulatory and financial frameworks, and seed financing, and would benefit from sharing experiences and best practices.

d) Broadband capacity to facilitate the delivery of a broader range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users.

e) Coordinated assistance, as appropriate, for countries referred to in paragraph 16 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in order to improve effectiveness and to lower transaction costs associated with the delivery of international donor support.

f) ICT applications and content aimed at the integration of ICTs into the implementation of poverty eradication strategies and in sector programmes, particularly in health, education, agriculture and the environment.

In addition, there is a need to consider the following other issues, which are relevant to ICT for development and which have not received adequate attention:

g) Sustainability of Information Society related projects, for example the maintenance of ICT infrastructure.

h) Special needs of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), such as funding requirements.

i) Local development and manufacturing of ICT applications and technologies by developing countries.

j) Activities on ICT-related institutional reform and enhanced capacity on legal and regulatory framework.

k) Improving organizational structures and business-process change aimed at optimizing the impact and effectiveness of ICT projects and other projects with significant ICT components;

l) Local government and initiatives based in local communities that deliver ICT services to communities in areas such as education, health and livelihood support.

24. Recognizing that the central responsibility for coordination of public financing programmes and public ICT development initiatives rests with governments, **we recommend** that further cross-sectoral and cross-institutional coordination should be undertaken, both on the part of donors and recipients within the national framework.

25. Multilateral development banks and institutions should consider adapting their existing mechanisms, and where appropriate designing new ones, to provide for national and regional demands on ICT development.

26. **We acknowledge** the following prerequisites for equitable and universal accessibility to, and better utilization of, financial mechanisms:

a) Creating policy and regulatory incentives aimed at universal access and the attraction of private-sector investment.

b) Identification and acknowledgement of the key role of ICTs in national development strategies, and their elaboration, when appropriate, in conjunction with e-strategies.

c) Developing institutional and implementation capacity to support the use of national universal service/access funds, and further study of these mechanisms and those aiming to mobilize domestic resources.

d) Encouraging the development of locally relevant information, applications and services that will benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

e) Supporting the "scaling-up" of successful ICT-based pilot programmes.

f) Supporting the use of ICTs in government as a priority and crucial target area for ICT-based development interventions.

g) Building human resource and institutional capacity (knowledge) at every level for achieving Information Society objectives, especially in the public sector.

h) Encouraging business-sector entities to help jump-start wider demand for ICT services by supporting creative industries, local producers of cultural content and applications as well as small businesses.

i) Strengthening capacities to enhance the potential of securitized funds and utilizing them effectively.

27. **We recommend** improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms, including:

a) Improving financial mechanisms to make financial resources become adequate, more predictable, preferably untied, and sustainable.

b) Enhancing regional cooperation and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially by creating incentives for building regional backbone infrastructure.

c) Providing affordable access to ICTs, by the following measures:

i. reducing international Internet costs charged by backbone providers, supporting, *inter alia*, the creation and development of regional ICT backbones and Internet Exchange Points to reduce interconnection cost and broaden network access;

ii. encouraging ITU to continue the study of the question of International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as an urgent matter to develop appropriate Recommendations.

d) Coordinating programmes among governments and major financial players to mitigate investment risks and transaction costs for operators entering less attractive rural and low-income market segments.

e) Helping to accelerate the development of domestic financial instruments, including by supporting local microfinance instruments, ICT business incubators, public credit instruments, reverse auction mechanisms, networking initiatives based on local communities, digital solidarity and other innovations.

f) Improving the ability to access financing facilities with a view to accelerating the pace of financing of ICT infrastructure and services, including the promotion of North-South flows as well as North-South and South-South cooperation.

g) Multilateral, regional and bilateral development organizations should consider the utility of creating a virtual forum for the sharing of information by all stakeholders on potential projects, on sources of financing and on institutional financial mechanisms.

h) Enabling developing countries to be increasingly able to generate funds for ICTs and to develop financial instruments, including trust funds and seed capital adapted to their economies.

i) Urging all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus.

j) Multilateral, regional and bilateral development organizations should consider cooperating to enhance their capacity to provide rapid response with a view to supporting developing countries that request assistance with respect to ICT policies;

k) Encouraging increased voluntary contributions.

l) Making, as appropriate, effective use of debt relief mechanisms as outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action, including *inter alia* debt cancellation and debt swapping, that may be used for financing ICT for development projects, including those within the framework of Poverty Reduction Strategies.

28. We welcome the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and seeking new voluntary sources of "solidarity" finance. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of new ICT infrastructure and services.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

29. **We reaffirm the principles** enunciated in the Geneva phase of the WSIS, in December 2003, that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

30. **We acknowledge** that the Internet, a central element of the infrastructure of the Information Society, has evolved from a research and academic facility into a global facility available to the public.

31. **We recognize** that Internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, is an essential element for a people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory Information Society. Furthermore, we commit ourselves to the stability and security of the Internet as a global facility and to ensuring the requisite legitimacy of its governance, based on the full participation of all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities.

32. **We thank** the UN Secretary-General for establishing the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). **We commend** the chairman, members and secretariat for their work and for their report.

33. **We take note** of the WGIG's report that has endeavoured to develop a working definition of Internet governance. It has helped identify a number of public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance. The report has also enhanced our understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, intergovernmental and international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries.

34. A working definition of Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

35. **We reaffirm** that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect it is recognized that:

a) Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues.

b) The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields.

c) Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role.

d) intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues.

e) International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.

36. **We recognize** the valuable contribution by the academic and technical communities within those stakeholder groups mentioned in paragraph 35 to the evolution, functioning and development of the Internet.

37. **We seek to improve** the coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other institutions concerned with Internet governance and the exchange of information among themselves. A multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted, as far as possible, at all levels.

38. **We call for** the reinforcement of specialized regional Internet resource management institutions to guarantee the national interest and rights of countries in that particular region to manage their own Internet resources, while maintaining global coordination in this area.

39. **We seek** to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs by strengthening the trust framework. **We reaffirm** the necessity to further promote, develop and implement in cooperation with all stakeholders a global culture of cybersecurity, as outlined in UNGA Resolution 57/239 and other relevant regional frameworks. This culture requires national action and increased international cooperation to strengthen security while enhancing the protection of personal information, privacy and data. Continued development of the culture of cybersecurity should enhance access and trade and must take into account the level of social and economic development of each country and respect the development-oriented aspects of the Information Society.

40. **We underline** the importance of the prosecution of cybercrime, including cybercrime committed in one jurisdiction, but having effects in another. **We further underline** the necessity of effective and efficient tools and actions, at national and international levels, to promote international cooperation among, *inter alia*, law-enforcement agencies on cybercrime. **We call upon governments** in cooperation with other stakeholders to develop necessary legislation for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, noting existing frameworks, for example, UNGA Resolutions 55/63 and 56/121 on "*Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies*" and regional initiatives including, but not limited to, the Council of Europe's *Convention on Cybercrime*.

41. **We resolve to deal effectively** with the significant and growing problem posed by spam. **We take note** of current multilateral, multi-stakeholder frameworks for regional and international cooperation on spam, for example, the APEC Anti-Spam Strategy, the London Action Plan, the Seoul-Melbourne Anti-Spam Memorandum of Understanding and the relevant activities of OECD and ITU. **We call upon** all stakeholders to adopt a multi-pronged approach to counter spam that includes, *inter alia*, consumer and business education; appropriate legislation, law-enforcement authorities and tools; the continued development of technical and self-regulatory measures; best practices; and international cooperation.

42. **We reaffirm our commitment** to the freedom to seek, receive, impart and use information, in particular, for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. **We affirm** that measures undertaken to ensure Internet stability and security, to fight cybercrime and to counter spam, must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression as contained in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Declaration of Principles.

43. **We reiterate** our commitments to the positive uses of the Internet and other ICTs and to take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs as mentioned under the *Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society* of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action.

44. **We also underline** the importance of countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet, while respecting human rights and in compliance with other obligations under international law, as outlined in UNGA A/60/L.1 with reference to Article 85 of the *2005 World Summit Outcome*.

45. **We underline** the importance of the security, continuity and stability of the Internet, and the need to protect the Internet and other ICT networks from threats and vulnerabilities. **We affirm** the need for a common understanding of the issues of Internet security, and for further cooperation to facilitate outreach, the collection and dissemination of security-related information and exchange of good practice among all stakeholders on measures to combat security threats, at national and international levels.

46. **We call upon all stakeholders** to ensure respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data, whether via adoption of legislation, the implementation of collaborative frameworks, best practices and self-regulatory and technological measures by business and users. **We encourage all stakeholders,** in particular governments, to reaffirm the right of individuals to access information according to the Geneva Declaration of Principles and other mutually agreed relevant international instruments, and to coordinate internationally as appropriate.

47. **We recognize** the increasing volume and value of all e-business, both within and across national boundaries. **We call for** the development of national consumer-protection laws and practices, and enforcement mechanisms where necessary, to protect the right of consumers who purchase goods and services online, and for enhanced international cooperation to facilitate a further expansion, in a non-discriminatory way, under applicable national laws, of e-business as well as consumer confidence in it.

48. **We note with satisfaction** the increasing use of ICT by governments to serve citizens and encourage countries that have not yet done so to develop national programmes and strategies for e-government.

49. **We reaffirm our commitment** to turning the digital divide into digital opportunity, and **we commit** to ensuring harmonious and equitable development for all. **We commit** to foster and provide guidance on development areas in the broader Internet governance arrangements, and to include, amongst other issues, international interconnection costs, capacity building and technology know-how transfer. **We encourage** the realization of multilingualism in the Internet development environment, and **we support** the development of software that renders itself easily to localization, and enables users to choose appropriate solutions from different software models including open-source, free and proprietary software.

50. **We acknowledge** that there are concerns, particularly amongst developing countries, that the charges for international Internet connectivity should be better balanced to enhance access. **We therefore call for** the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all, by:

a) Promoting Internet transit and interconnection costs that are commercially negotiated in a competitive environment and that should be oriented towards objective, transparent and non-discriminatory parameters, taking into account ongoing work on this subject.

b) Setting up regional high-speed Internet backbone networks and the creation of national, sub-regional and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

c) Recommending donor programmes and developmental financing mechanisms to consider the need to provide funding for initiatives that advance connectivity, IXPs and local content for developing countries.

d) Encouraging ITU to continue the study of the question of International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as a matter of urgency, and to periodically provide output for consideration and possible implementation. We also encourage other relevant institutions to address this issue.

e) Promoting the development and growth of low-cost terminal equipment, such as individual and collective user devices, especially for use in developing countries.

f) Encouraging Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other parties in the commercial negotiations to adopt practices towards attainment of fair and balanced interconnectivity costs.

g) Encouraging relevant parties to commercially negotiate reduced interconnection costs for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), taking into account the special constraints of LDCs.

51. **We encourage** governments and other stakeholders, through partnerships where appropriate, to promote ICT education and training in developing countries, by establishing national strategies for ICT integration in education and workforce development and dedicating appropriate resources. Furthermore, international cooperation would be extended, on a voluntary basis, for capacity building in areas relevant to Internet governance. This may include, in particular, building centres of expertise and other institutions to facilitate know-how transfer and exchange of best practices, in order to enhance the participation of developing countries and all stakeholders in Internet governance mechanisms.

52. In order to ensure effective participation in global Internet governance, **we urge** international organizations, including intergovernmental organizations, where relevant, to ensure that all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, have the opportunity to participate in policy decision-making relating to Internet governance, and to promote and facilitate such participation.

53. **We commit to working earnestly** towards multilingualization of the Internet, as part of a multilateral, transparent and democratic process, involving governments and all stakeholders, in their respective roles. In this context, **we also support** local content development, translation and adaptation, digital archives, and diverse forms of digital and traditional media, and recognize that these activities can also strengthen local and indigenous communities. **We would therefore underline** the need to:

a) Advance the process for the introduction of multilingualism in a number of areas including domain names, e-mail addresses and keyword look-up.

b) Implement programmes that allow for the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the Internet and the use of various software models in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and to ensure the participation of all in the emerging new society.

c) Strengthen cooperation between relevant bodies for the further development of technical standards and to foster their global deployment.

54. **We recognize that** an enabling environment, at national and international levels, supportive of foreign direct investment, transfer of technology, and international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt and trade, is essential for the development of the Information Society, including for the development and diffusion of the Internet and its optimal use. In particular, the roles of the private sector and civil society as the drivers of innovation and private investment in the development of the Internet are critical. Value is added at the edges of the network in both developed and developing countries when the international and domestic policy environment encourages investment and innovation.

55. **We recognize** that the existing arrangements for Internet governance have worked effectively to make the Internet the highly robust, dynamic and geographically diverse medium that it is today, with the private sector taking the lead in day-to-day operations, and with innovation and value creation at the edges.

56. The Internet remains a highly dynamic medium and therefore any framework and mechanisms designed to deal with Internet governance should be inclusive and responsive to the exponential growth and fast evolution of the Internet as a common platform for the development of multiple applications.

57. The security and stability of the Internet must be maintained.

58. **We recognize** that Internet governance includes more than Internet naming and addressing. It also includes other significant public policy issues such as, *inter alia*, critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet.

59. **We recognize** that Internet governance includes social, economic and technical issues, including affordability, reliability and quality of service.

60. **We further recognize** that there are many cross-cutting international public policy issues that require attention and are not adequately addressed by the current mechanisms.

61. **We are convinced** that there is a need to initiate, and reinforce, as appropriate, a transparent, democratic, and multilateral process, with the participation of governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations, in their respective roles. This process could envisage creation of a suitable framework or mechanisms, where justified, thus spurring the ongoing and active evolution of the current arrangements in order to synergize the efforts in this regard.

62. **We emphasize** that any Internet governance approach should be inclusive and responsive and should continue to promote an enabling environment for innovation, competition and investment.

63. Countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country's country-code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD). Their legitimate interests, as expressed and defined by each country in diverse ways, regarding decisions affecting their ccTLDs, need to be respected, upheld and addressed via a flexible and improved framework and mechanisms.

64. **We recognize** the need for further development of, and strengthened cooperation among, stakeholders for public policies for generic Top-Level Domain names (gTLDs).

65. **We underline** the need to maximize the participation of developing countries in decisions regarding Internet governance, which should reflect their interests, as well as in development and capacity building.

66. In view of the continuing internationalization of the Internet and the principle of universality, **we agree** to implement the Geneva Principles regarding Internet governance.

67. **We agree**, *inter alia*, to invite the UN Secretary-General to convene a new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue.

68. **We recognize** that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet. **We also recognize** the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders.

69. **We further recognize** the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.

70. Using relevant international organizations, such cooperation should include the development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources. In this regard, **we call upon** the organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet to contribute to creating an environment that facilitates this development of public policy principles.

71. The process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the UN Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation. Relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and responsive to innovation. The same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports.

72. **We ask the UN Secretary-General**, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue – called the *Internet Governance Forum* (IGF). The mandate of the Forum is to:

a) Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.

b) Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body.

c) Interface with appropriate intergovernmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview.

d) Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities.

e) Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world.

f) Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries.

g) Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations.

h) Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.

i) Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes.

j) Discuss, *inter alia*, issues relating to critical Internet resources.

k) Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users.

l) Publish its proceedings.

73. The Internet Governance Forum, in its working and function, will be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent. To that end, the proposed IGF could:

a) Build on the existing structures of Internet governance, with special emphasis on the complementarity between all stakeholders involved in this process – governments, business entities, civil society and intergovernmental organizations.

b) Have a lightweight and decentralized structure that would be subject to periodic review.

c) Meet periodically, as required. IGF meetings, in principle, may be held in parallel with major relevant UN conferences, *inter alia*, to use logistical support.

74. **We encourage** the UN Secretary-General to examine a range of options for the convening of the Forum, taking into consideration the proven competencies of all stakeholders in Internet governance and the need to ensure their full involvement.

75. The UN Secretary-General would report to UN Member States periodically on the operation of the Forum.

76. **We ask the UN Secretary-General** to examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum, in formal consultation with Forum participants, within five years of its creation, and to make recommendations to the UN Membership in this regard.

77. The IGF would have no oversight function and would not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organizations, but would involve them and take advantage of their expertise. It would be constituted as a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process. It would have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet.

78. The UN Secretary-General should extend invitations to all stakeholders and relevant parties to participate at the inaugural meeting of the IGF, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The UN Secretary-General should also:

a) draw upon any appropriate resources from all interested stakeholders, including the proven expertise of ITU, as demonstrated during the WSIS process; and

b) establish an effective and cost-efficient bureau to support the IGF, ensuring multi-stakeholder participation.

79. Diverse matters relating to Internet governance would continue to be addressed in other relevant fora.

80. **We encourage** the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

81. **We reaffirm our commitment** to the full implementation of the Geneva Principles.

82. **We welcome** the generous offer of the Government of Greece to host the first meeting of the IGF in Athens no later than 2006 and **we call upon** the UN Secretary-General to extend invitations to all stakeholders and relevant parties to participate at the inaugural meeting of the IGF.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

83. Building an inclusive development-oriented Information Society will require unremitting multi-stakeholder effort. **We thus commit ourselves** to remain fully engaged—nationally, regionally and internationally—to ensure sustainable implementation and follow-up of the outcomes and commitments reached during the WSIS process and its Geneva and Tunis phases of the Summit. Taking into account the multi-faceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, according to their different roles and responsibilities and leveraging on their expertise, is essential.

84. Governments and other stakeholders should identify those areas where further effort and resources are required, and jointly identify, and where appropriate develop, implementation strategies, mechanisms and processes for WSIS outcomes at international, regional, national and local levels, paying particular attention to people and groups that are still marginalized in their access to, and utilization of, ICTs.

85. Taking into consideration the leading role of governments in partnership with other stakeholders in implementing the WSIS outcomes, including the Geneva Plan of Action, at the national level, **we encourage** those governments that have not yet done so to elaborate, as appropriate, comprehensive, forward-looking and sustainable national e-strategies, including ICT strategies and sectoral e-strategies as appropriate[1], as an integral part of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies, as soon as possible and before 2010.

86. **We support** regional and international integration efforts aimed at building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, and **we reiterate** that strong cooperation within and among regions is indispensable to support knowledge-sharing. Regional cooperation should contribute to national capacity building and to the development of regional implementation strategies.

87. **We affirm** that the exchange of views and sharing of effective practices and resources is essential to implementing the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share, among all stakeholders, knowledge and know-how, related to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of e-strategies and policies, as appropriate. **We recognize** as fundamental elements to bridge the digital divide in developing countries, in a sustainable way, poverty reduction, enhanced national capacity building and the promotion of national technological development.

88. **We reaffirm** that through the international cooperation of governments and the partnership of all stakeholders, it will be possible to succeed in our challenge of harnessing the potential of ICTs as a tool, at the service of development, to promote the use of information and knowledge to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to address the national and local development priorities, thereby further improving the socio- economic development of all human beings.

89. **We are determined** to improve international, regional and national connectivity and affordable access to ICTs and information through an enhanced international cooperation of all stakeholders that promotes technology exchange and technology transfer, human resource development and training, thus increasing the capacity of developing countries to innovate and to participate fully in, and contribute to, the Information Society.

90. **We reaffirm our commitment** to providing equitable access to information and knowledge for all, recognizing the role of ICTs for economic growth and development. **We are committed** to working towards achieving the indicative targets, set out in the Geneva Plan of Action, that serve as global references for improving connectivity and universal, ubiquitous, equitable, non-discriminatory and affordable access to, and use of, ICTs, considering different national circumstances, to be achieved by 2015, and to using ICTs, as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, by:

a) *mainstreaming and aligning national e-strategies*, across local, national, and regional action plans, as appropriate and in accordance with local and national development priorities, with in-built time-bound measures.

[1] Throughout this text, further references to "e-strategies" are interpreted as including also ICT strategies and sectoral e-strategies, as appropriate.

b) *developing and implementing enabling policies* that reflect national realities and that promote a supportive international environment, foreign direct investment as well as the mobilization of domestic resources, in order to promote and foster entrepreneurship, particularly Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), taking into account the relevant market and cultural contexts. These policies should be reflected in a transparent, equitable regulatory framework to create a competitive environment to support these goals and strengthen economic growth.

c) *building ICT capacity* for all and confidence in the use of ICTs by all - including youth, older persons, women, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and remote and rural communities - through the improvement and delivery of relevant education and training programmes and systems including lifelong and distance learning.

d) *implementing effective training and education*, particularly in ICT science and technology, that motivates and promotes participation and active involvement of girls and women in the decision-making process of building the Information Society.

e) *paying special attention to the formulation of universal design concepts and the use of assistive technologies* that promote access for all persons, including those with disabilities.

f) *promoting public policies aimed at providing affordable access* at all levels, including community-level, to hardware as well as software and connectivity through an increasingly converging technological environment, capacity building and local content.

g) *improving access to the world's health knowledge and telemedicine services*, in particular in areas such as global cooperation in emergency response, access to and networking among health professionals to help improve quality of life and environmental conditions.

h) *building ICT capacities* to improve access and use of postal networks and services.

i) *using ICTs to improve access to agricultural knowledge*, combat poverty, and support production of and access to locally relevant agriculture-related content.

j) *developing and implementing e-government applications* based on open standards in order to enhance the growth and interoperability of e-government systems, at all levels, thereby furthering access to government information and services, and contributing to building ICT networks and developing services that are available anywhere and anytime, to anyone and on any device.

k) *supporting educational, scientific, and cultural institutions*, including libraries, archives and museums, in their role of developing, providing equitable, open and affordable access to, and preserving diverse and varied content, including in digital form, to support informal and formal education, research and innovation; and in particular supporting libraries in their public-service role of providing free and equitable access to information and of improving ICT literacy and community connectivity, particularly in underserved communities.

l) *enhancing the capacity of communities* in all regions to develop content in local and/or indigenous languages.

m) *strengthening the creation of quality e-content*, on national, regional and international levels.

n) *promoting the use of traditional and new media* in order to foster universal access to information, culture and knowledge for all people, especially vulnerable populations and populations in developing countries and using, *inter alia*, radio and television as educational and learning tools.

o) *reaffirming the independence, pluralism and diversity of media, and freedom of information* including through, as appropriate, the development of domestic legislation, **we reiterate** our call for the responsible use and treatment of information by the media in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards. **We reaffirm** the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills. These reaffirmations are made with reference to Geneva Declaration of Principles paragraphs 55 to 59.

p) *strongly encouraging ICT enterprises and entrepreneurs to develop and use environment-friendly production processes* in order to minimize the negative impacts of the use and manufacture of ICTs and disposal of ICT waste on people and the environment. In this context, it is important to give particular attention to the specific needs of the developing countries.

q) *incorporating regulatory, self-regulatory, and other effective policies and frameworks to protect children and young people* from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e-strategies.

r) *promoting the development of advanced research networks*, at national, regional and international levels, in order to improve collaboration in science, technology and higher education.

s) *promoting voluntary service*, at the community level, to help maximize the developmental impact of ICTs.

t) *promoting the use of ICTs to enhance flexible ways of working*, including teleworking, leading to greater productivity and job creation.

91. **We recognize** the intrinsic relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and that disasters seriously undermine investment in a very short time and remain a major impediment to sustainable development and poverty eradication. **We are clear** as to the important enabling role of ICTs at the national, regional and international levels including:

a) Promoting technical cooperation and enhancing the capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, in utilizing ICT tools for disaster early-warning, management and emergency communications, including dissemination of understandable warnings to those at risk.

b) Promoting regional and international cooperation for easy access to and sharing of information for disaster management, and exploring modalities for the easier participation of developing countries.

c) Working expeditiously towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks and facilitating emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions.

92. **We encourage countries, and all other interested parties, to make available** child helplines, taking into account the need for mobilization of appropriate resources. For this purpose, easy-to-remember numbers, accessible from all phones and free of charge, should be made available.

93. **We seek to** digitize our historical data and cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations. **We encourage** effective information management policies in the public and private sectors, including the use of standards-based digital archiving and innovative solutions to overcome technological obsolescence, as a means to ensure the long-term preservation of, and continued access to, information.

94. **We acknowledge** that everyone should benefit from the potential that the Information Society offers. Therefore, **we invite** governments to assist, on a voluntary basis, those countries affected by any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, and that hinders the well-being of their population.

95. **We call upon** international and intergovernmental organizations to develop, within approved resources, their policy analysis and capacity-building programmes, based on practical and replicable experiences of ICT matters, policies and actions that have led to economic growth and poverty alleviation, including through the improved competitiveness of enterprises.

96. **We recall** the importance of creating a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. To that end, **we reiterate** that ITU and other regional organizations should take steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements.

97. **We acknowledge** that multi-stakeholder participation is essential to the successful building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and that governments could play an important role in this process. **We underline** that the participation of all stakeholders in implementing WSIS outcomes, and following them up on national, regional and international levels with the overarching goal of helping countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, is key to that success.

98. **We encourage** strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes, for instance through the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms, in a joint effort and dialogue with developing and less developed countries, development partners and actors in the ICT sector. In that respect, **we welcome** partnerships such as the ITU-led "Connect the World" initiative.

99. **We agree** to ensure the sustainability of progress towards the goals of WSIS after the completion of its Tunis phase and **we decide,** therefore, to establish a mechanism for implementation and follow-up at national, regional and international levels.

100. At the national level, based on the WSIS outcomes, **we encourage** governments, with the participation of all stakeholders and bearing in mind the importance of an enabling environment, to set up a national *implementation* mechanism, in which:

a) National e-strategies, where appropriate, should be an integral part of national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies, aiming to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

b) ICTs should be fully mainstreamed into strategies for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through more effective information-sharing and coordination among development partners, and through analysis and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from experience with ICT for development programmes.

c) Existing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes, including those under the UN Development Assistance Framework, should be used whenever appropriate to assist governments in their implementation efforts at the national level.

d) Common Country Assessment reports should contain a component on ICT for development.

101. At the regional level:

a) Upon request from governments, regional intergovernmental organizations in collaboration with other stakeholders should carry out WSIS implementation activities, exchanging information and best practices at the regional level, as well as facilitating policy debate on the use of ICT for development, with a focus on attaining the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

b) UN Regional Commissions, based on request of Member States and within approved budgetary resources, may organize regional WSIS follow-up activities in collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations, with appropriate frequency, as well as assisting Member States with technical and relevant information for the development of regional strategies and the implementation of the outcomes of regional conferences.

c) **We consider** a multi-stakeholder approach and the participation in regional WSIS implementation activities by the private sector, civil society, and the United Nations and other international organizations to be essential.

102. At the international level, bearing in mind the importance of the enabling environment:

a) *Implementation and follow-up* of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the Summit should take into account the main themes and action lines in the Summit documents.

b) Each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies, and pursuant to decisions of their respective governing bodies, and within existing approved resources.

c) Implementation and follow-up should include intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder components.

103. **We invite** UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, in line with UNGA Resolution 57/270 B, to facilitate activities among different stakeholders, including civil society and the business sector, to help national governments in their implementation efforts. **We request** the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with members of the UN system Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB), to establish, within the CEB, a UN Group on the Information Society consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations, with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes, and to suggest to CEB that, in considering lead agency(ies) of this Group, it takes into consideration the experience of, and activities in the WSIS process undertaken by, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP.

104. **We further request** the UN Secretary-General to report to the UNGA through ECOSOC by June 2006, on the modalities of the inter-agency coordination of the implementation of WSIS outcomes including recommendations on the follow-up process.

105. **We request** that ECOSOC oversees the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of WSIS. To this end, **we request** that ECOSOC, at its substantive session of 2006, reviews the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including considering the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach.

106. WSIS implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the UN integrated follow-up to major UN conferences and should contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. It should not require the creation of any new operational bodies.

107. International and regional organizations should assess and report regularly on universal accessibility of nations to ICTs, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of ICT sectors of developing countries.

108. **We attach great importance** to multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level, which should be organized taking into account the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated or facilitated by UN agencies when appropriate. An Annex to this document offers an indicative and non-exhaustive list of facilitators/moderators for the action lines of the Geneva Plan of Action.

109. The experience of, and the activities undertaken by, UN agencies in the WSIS process – notably ITU, UNESCO and UNDP – should continue to be used to their fullest extent. These three agencies should play leading facilitating roles in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and organize a meeting of moderators/facilitators of action lines, as mentioned in the Annex.

110. The coordination of multi-stakeholder implementation activities would help to avoid duplication of activities. This should include, *inter alia*, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships.

111. **We request** the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to make an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015.

112. **We call for** periodic evaluation, using an agreed methodology, such as described in paragraphs 113-120.

113. Appropriate indicators and benchmarking, including community connectivity indicators, should clarify the magnitude of the digital divide, in both its domestic and international dimensions, and keep it under regular assessment, and track global progress in the use of ICTs to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

114. The development of ICT indicators is important for measuring the digital divide. **We note** the launch, in June 2004, of the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*, and its efforts:

a) to develop a common set of core ICT indicators; to increase the availability of internationally comparable ICT statistics as well as to establish a mutually agreed framework for their elaboration, for further consideration and decision by the UN Statistical Commission.

b) to promote capacity building in developing countries for monitoring the Information Society.

c) to assess the current and potential impact of ICTs on development and poverty reduction.

d) to develop specific gender-disaggregated indicators to measure the digital divide in its various dimensions.

115. **We also note** the launch of the *ICT Opportunity Index* and the *Digital Opportunity Index*, which will build upon the common set of core ICT indicators as they were defined within the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*.

116. **We stress** that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances.

117. The further development of these indicators should be undertaken in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion.

118. **We invite** the international community to strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries by giving appropriate support at national and regional levels.

119. **We commit** ourselves to review and follow up progress in bridging the digital divide, taking into account the different levels of development among nations, so as to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, assessing the effectiveness of investment and international cooperation efforts in building the

Information Society, identifying gaps as well as deficits in investment and devising strategies to address them.

120. The sharing of information related to the implementation of WSIS outcomes is an important element of evaluation. **We note with appreciation** the *Report on the Stocktaking of WSIS-related activities*, which will serve as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the Summit, as well as the "*Golden Book*" of initiatives launched during the Tunis phase. **We encourage** all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute information on their activities to the public WSIS stocktaking database maintained by ITU. In this regard, **we invite** all countries to gather information at the national level with the involvement of all stakeholders, to contribute to the stocktaking.

121. There is a need to build more awareness of the Internet in order to make it a global facility which is truly available to the public. **We call upon the UNGA** to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to help to raise awareness, on an annual basis, of the importance of this global facility, on the issues dealt with in the Summit, especially the possibilities that the use of ICT can bring for societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

122. **We request** the Secretary-General of the Summit to report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its outcome, as requested in UNGA Resolution 59/220.

Annex

Action Line	**Possible moderators/facilitators**
C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	ECOSOC/UN Regional Commissions/ITU
C2. Information and communication infrastructure	ITU
C3. Access to information and knowledge	ITU/UNESCO
C4. Capacity building	UNDP/UNESCO/ITU/ UNCTAD
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	ITU
C6. Enabling environment	ITU/UNDP/UN Regional Commissions S/UNCTAD
C7. ICT Applications	
• E-government	UNDP/ITU
• E-business	WTO/UNCTAD/ITU/UPU
• E-learning	UNESCO/ITU/UNIDO
• E-health	WHO/ITU
• E-employment	ILO/ITU
• E-environment	WHO/WMO/UNEP/UN-Habitat/ITU/ICAO
• E-agriculture	FAO/ITU
• E-science	UNESCO/ITU/UNCTAD
C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	UNESCO
C9. Media	UNESCO
C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	UNESCO/ECOSOC
C11. International and regional cooperation	UN Regional Commissions / UNDP/ITU/UNESCO/ECOSOC

C. Credentials of representatives to the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society

The World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis Phase, at its Eighth Plenary Meeting, 18 November 2005, adopted the following resolution regarding the Credentials of representatives to the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/8(Rev.1))

"Credentials of representatives to the World Summit on the Information Society"

"*The World Summit on the Information Society*,

"*Having considered* the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

"*Approves* the report of the Credentials Committee."

CHAPTER II

Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and place of the Tunis phase of the Summit

1 The Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005, pursuant to Resolutions of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 56/183 and 57/238. The Summit held one organizational and eight plenary meetings (1st to 8th).

B. Attendance at the Tunis Phase of the Summit

2 The following 174 States were represented at the Summit:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Rep., Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of the), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Rep., DPR of Korea, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, FYR of Macedonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Holy See, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Isl. Rep. of Iran, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao P.D.R., Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia & Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3 The European Community was represented in conformity with the rules of procedure of the Summit.

4 The following entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the United Nations General Assembly to participate as observers at the Summit were represented:

Palestine

African Development Bank

African Union

Asian Development Bank

Caribbean Community

Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
Council of Europe
East African Community
Inter-American Development Bank
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Criminal Police Organization
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
International Organization for Migration
Inter-Parliamentary Union
League of Arab States
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
Organization of the Islamic Conference
Sovereign Military Order of Malta

The following United Nations regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

International Trade Center (ITC)
Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
Office of the United Nations at Geneva (UNOG)
United Nations
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations ICT Task Force (UNICT)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UNNGLS)
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
United Nations University (UNU)
United Nations Working Group on Internet Governance
World Tourism Organization (WTO)

7 The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

World Bank

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

8 Other Intergovernmental Organizations having received an invitation and participating as observers were:

African Telecommunication Union

African Union – NEPAD

African Virtual University (AVU)

Arab Women Organization (AWO)

The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO)

The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU)

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

Centro de cooperacion regional para la educacion de adultos en America latina y el Caribe (CREFAL)

Center for Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO)

Communaute Economique et Monetaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC)

Council of the European Union

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)

Eutelsat IGO

Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC)

Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicación Educativa (ILCE)

International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI)

International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS)

Organizacion Iberoamericana de Juventud

Organisation islamic pour l'education, les sciences et la culture (ISESCO)

Pan-African Postal Union

Regional African Satellite Communications Organization (RASCOM)

Regional Commonwealth in the field of communications (RCC)

Red de Información Tecnológica Latinoamericana (RITLA)

9 Six hundred and six non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC or accredited to the Summit during its preparatory process also attended.

10 Two hundred and twenty six business entities and ITU Sector Members accredited to the Summit during its preparatory process also attended.

C. Documentation

11 The list of documents before the Summit is contained in Annex 1 to this report.

D. Opening ceremony

12 At the opening ceremony, on the morning of 16 November 2005, addresses were delivered by: His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, President of the Republic of Tunisia; His Excellency Mr. Kofi ANNAN, Secretary-General of the United Nations; His Excellency Mr. Samuel SCHMID, President of the Swiss Confederation; His Excellency Mr. Yoshio UTSUMI, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and Secretary-General of the Summit; Ms Shirin EBADI, President of the Defenders of Human Rights Center; Mr. Craig BARRETT, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation; and His Excellency Mr. Janis KARKLINS, President of the Preparatory Committee of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

E. Organizational meeting

13 The World Summit on the Information Society held an organizational meeting on 16 November 2005 immediately preceding the Opening Ceremony.

F. Adoption of the agenda of the organizational meeting

14 At its organizational meeting on 16 November, the Summit adopted the agenda of its organizational meeting as contained in Document WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/3. The agenda was as follows:

1 Opening of the Tunis phase of the Summit

2 Adoption of the Agenda of the Organizational Meeting

3 Election of the President of the Summit and of the President of the Organizational Meeting

4 Adoption of the Agenda of the Tunis Phase of the Summit

5 Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit

6 Election of other officers of the Tunis Phase of the Summit

7 Organization of work

8 Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

9 Report of the Preparatory Committee

10 Other Business

G. Election of the President of the Tunis phase of the Summit and of the President of the organizational meeting

15 At its organizational meeting, the Summit elected the President of the Republic of Tunisia, H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, as President of its Tunis phase, by acclamation.

16 At its organizational meeting, the Summit elected H.E. Mr. Montasser OUAILI, Minister of Communication Technologies, Tunisia, as President of the organizational meeting of its Tunis phase, by acclamation.

H. Adoption of the agenda of the Tunis phase of the Summit and other organizational matters

17 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the Summit adopted the agenda of the Tunis phase of the Summit as contained in Document WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1 Opening of the Tunis phase of the Summit

2 Election of the President of the Summit and of the President of the Organizational Meeting

3 Adoption of the Agenda

4 Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit

5 Election of other officers of the Summit

6 Organization of work

7 Credentials of representatives to the Summit

a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

b) Report of the Credentials Committee

8 Report of the Preparatory Committee

9 General Debate

10 Round tables and the High-Level Panel

11 Report from Multi-stakeholder Events

12 Adoption of the final documents

13 Adoption of the Report of the Tunis phase of the Summit

14 Closing of the Summit

I. Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit

18 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the Summit amended Rule 7 of its Rules of Procedure, as contained in Document WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/2.

J. Election of other officers of the Tunis phase of the Summit

Election of Vice-Presidents

19 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the Summit elected the following 80 Vice-Presidents:

African States: Egypt, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Senegal, Zambia

Asian States: India, Indonesia, Iran, Philippines, Nepal, Pakistan

Latin American and the Caribbean States: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.

Eastern European States: Armenia, Belarus, Hungary, Latvia, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro.

Western European and Other States: Canada, France, Greece, Norway, Spain, United States of America.

Election of two ex officio Vice-Presidents

20 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005,the Summit elected Mr. Mohamed GHANNOUCHI, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia, and Mr. Moritz LEUENBERGER, Vice President of the Swiss Confederation, as *ex officio* Vice-Presidents, by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

21 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the Summit elected Dr. George PAPADATOS (Greece) to serve as its Rapporteur, by acclamation.

K. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

22 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005,, the Summit appointed a Credentials Committee for the Tunis phase based on the membership of the Credentials Committee of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Summit agreed to replace Sierra Leone and Saint Lucia by Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively. The members of the Credentials Committee for the Tunis phase of the Summit were as follows: Cameroon, China, Panama, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Samoa, Nigeria, Russian Federation and the United States of America.

L. Report of the Preparatory Committee

23 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the President of the Preparatory Committee, H.E. Mr. Janis KARKLINS (Latvia), made a statement in which he reported on the work undertaken during the preparatory process.

M Other Business

24 Under the Rules of Procedure of the Summit, Mr Yoshio UTSUMI, Secretary-General of the ITU, served as Secretary-General of the Summit.

CHAPTER III

General debate

1 The Summit held a general debate at its 1st to 8th plenary meetings, from 16 to 18 November 2005.

2 The 1st plenary meeting, on 16 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, President of Tunisia; and His Excellency Mr. Mohamed GHANNOUCHI, Prime Minister of Tunisia. Statements were made by (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Stjepan MESIC, President of the Republic of Croatia; His Excellency Mr. Fernando Dias DOS SANTOS, Prime Minister of the Republic of Angola; His Excellency Mr. Obiang Nguema MBASOGO, President of Equatorial Guinea; Her Excellency Mrs. Luisa Dias DIOGO, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique; His Excellency Mr. Thabo MBEKI, President of South Africa; His Excellency Mr. Assoumani AZALI, President of the Union of the Comoros; His Excellency Mr. Robert MUGABE, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe; His Excellency Colonel Ely OULD MOHAMED VALL, President of Military Council for Justice and Democracy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalifa AL-THANI, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar; His Excellency Mr. Omer Hassan Ahmed ELBASHIR, President of the Republic of the Sudan; His Excellency Mr. Emomali RAHMONOV, President of the Republic of Tajikistan; His Excellency Mr. Alhaji ALIU MAHAMA, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana; Her Excellency the Right Honourable Libertina AMATHILA, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; His Excellency Mr. Roberto Ignacio Gonzales PLANAS, Minister of Computer Science and Communications of the Republic of Cuba; Mr. Serge TCHURUK, Chairman and CEO of Alcatel; Dr. Robert Khan, President and CEO of Corporation for National Research Initiatives; Professor Hans VAN GINKEL, Rector of United Nations University (UNU); Ms. Renate BLOEM, President of Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO); Mr. Tadashi ONODERA, President and Chairman of KDDI Corporation.

3 The 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): Her Excellency Mrs. Vaira VIKE-FREIBERGA, Head of State of the Republic of Latvia; His Majesty Bir Bikram SHAH GYANENDRA, King of the Kingdom of Nepal; His Honour Lupando MWAPE, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia. Statements were made by (chronological order): His Majesty Bir Bikram SHAH GYANENDRA, King of the Kingdom of Nepal; His Excellency Mr. Ousmane Issoufi MAIGA, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Mali; His Excellency Mr. Ivo Miro JOVIC, Chairperson of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; His Excellency the Right Honourable Pakalitha Bethuel MOSISILI, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho; His Excellency Chief Olusegun OBASANJO, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; His Excellency Mr. Denis SASSOU-NGUESSO, President of the Republic of the Congo; His Excellency Mr. Jean François NTOUTOUME EMANE, Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic; His Excellency Mr. François Bozize YANGOUVONDA, President of the Central African Republic; Her Excellency Mrs. Vaira VIKE-FREIBERGA, President of the Republic of Latvia; His Excellency General Emile LAHOUD, President of Lebanon; His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal; His Royal Highness Lavaka ata ULUKALALA, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga; His Honour Lupando MWAPE, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia; His Honour Seretse Khama IAN KHAMA, Vice President Lt. Gen. of the Republic of Botswana; His Excellency Mr. Zoran SAMI, President of the Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro; His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud ABBAS, President of Palestine; His Excellency Mr. Silvan SHALOM, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel;

His Excellency Mr. Dayanidhi MARAN, Minister for Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India; Professor Divina FRAU-MEIGS, Vice-President of International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) (on behalf of Civil Society Education, Academia and Research Taskforce); Mr. Michel JARAUD, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Mr. Jean-Bernard LEVY, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of Vivendi Universal; Mr. Mark CAPALDI, Deputy Director of ECPAT International (on behalf of Civil Society Children's Rights Caucus).

4 The 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Honour Lupando MWAPE, Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia; His Excellency Mr. Gilberto GIL, Minister of Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil; His Excellency Mr. Michael LIAPIS, Minister of Transport and Communications of Greece. Statements were made by (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. José MONTILLA AGUILERA, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Spain; His Excellency Mr. Viktor BONDAR, Minister of Transport and Communication of Ukraine; His Excellency Mr. Kálman KOVACS, Minister of Informatics and Communications of the Republic of Hungary; His Excellency Mr. Gilberto GIL, Minister of Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Her Excellency, Ms. Mari KIVINIEMI, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland; His Excellency Mr. Lucio STANCA, Minister of Innovation and Technologies of Italy; His Excellency Mr. Michael LIAPIS, Minister of Transport and Communications of Greece; His Excellency Mr. Jorge ALVAREZ HOTH, Under Minister of Mexico; Dr. Bernd PFAFFENBACH, State Secretary of Economy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Dr. Brendan TUOHY, Secretary General, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources of Ireland; His Excellency Mr. Philippe BLANCHI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco; Ms. Viviane REDING, Commissioner, European Community; His Excellency Francese BONET CASAS, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Principality of Andorra; Mr. Tao DENG, Vice-President of Huawei; Dr. Florence E. ETTA-AKINAINA, Co-ordinator ICT Policy Project Kenya (on behalf of the Telecentre Caucus); Ms. Katherine SIERRA, Vice President of the World Bank; Mr. Jean-Philippe COURTOIS, President of Microsoft International; Mr. Derrick DE KERCKHOVE, Director, McLuhan Program, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto; Mr. Lirong SHI, Senior Vice President, ZTE Corporation; Mr. Luis DI BENEDETTO, President, AHCIET

5 The 4th plenary meeting, on 17 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, Head of State of the Republic of Senegal; His Excellency Mr. Kálman KOVACS, Minister of Informatics and Communications of the Republic of Hungary; His Excellency Mr. Andranik MARGARYAN, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. Statements were made by (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Driss JETTOU, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco; His Excellency Mr. Ju HUANG, Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China; His Excellency Mr. Ahmad AL-ABDULLAH AL-AHMAD AL-SSABAH, Minister of Communications of the State of Kuwait; Mr. Plamen VATCHKOV, Chairman of the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria; His Excellency Mr. Antanas Zenonas KAMINSKAS, Chancellor of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania; His Excellency Mr. Etienne SINATAMBOU, Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications of the Repu[illegible] of Mauritius; His Excellency Mr. Virgilion L. PEÑA, Chairman of the Philippine Commission on Information and Communication Technology of the Philippines; His Excellency Dr. Boon Yang LEE, Minister for Information, Communication and the Arts Information, Communications and the Arts of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency Mr. Sultan AL MANSOURY, Minister of Communications of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Mr. Edgar SAVISAAR, Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Estonia; Her Excellency Ms. Nadia AL-SAEED, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Mr. Leonid D. REIMAN, Minister for Information Technologies and Communications of the Russian Federation;

His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Bashir AL MOUNAJED, Minister of Telecommunications and Technology of the Syrian Arab Republic; His Excellency Mr. Sora-at KLINPRATOOM, Minister of Information and Communication of Thailand; His Excellency Mr. Jun-Hyong ROH, Vice Minister of Information and Communication of the Republic of Korea; Mr. Nyunt SWE, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar; Her Excellency Sarala FERNANDO, Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Professor Mark J MWANDOSYA, Minister of Communications and Transport of the United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Uffe Toudal PEDERSEN, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Denmark; Mr. Gudmundur ARNASON, Permanent Secretary of Iceland; His Excellency Sheikh Al Fadel bin Mohamed BIN AHMED AL-HARTHY, Undersecretary for Development Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman; Dr. Janez MOZINA, State Secretary of the Republic of Slovenia; Ms. Gillian MACINTYRE, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Information of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; His Excellency Mr. Masood KHAN, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; His Excellency Mr. Francois ROUX, Ambassador of Belgium; Mr. Koïchiro MATSUURA, Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mr. Didier LOMBARD, CEO of France Telecom; Mr. Yoshio UTSUMI, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Ms. Delphine Nana MEKOUNTER, General Coordinator of the Centre Feminin pour la Promotion du Developpement (CEFEPROD)(on behalf of Civil Society African Family); Mr. Masao NAKAMURA, President and CEO of NTT DoCoMo Inc.; Mr. Aidan WHITE, Secretary General of the International Federation of Journalists; Mr. Abdoulie JANNEH, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Professor Nicholas NEGROPONTE, Chairman of the MIT Media Lab and Founder of One Laptop per Child (on behalf of a $100 Laptop Initiative).

6 The 5th plenary meeting, on 17 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Mohamed GHANNOUCHI, Prime Minister of Tunisia; His Excellency Dr. Sofyan A. DJALIL, Minister for Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia. Statements were made by (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Andranik MARGARYAN, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia; His Excellency Mr. Laurens-Jan BRINKHORST, Vice Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; His Excellency Dr. Martin MEYER, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications of the Principality of Liechtenstein; His Excellency Dr. Sofyan A. DJALIL, Minister for Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Mr. Carlos ALVAREZ, Minister of Economy of Chile; His Excellency Mr. Tefera WALUWA, Minister of Capacity Building of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; His Excellency Mr. Vladimir MOLOJEN, Minister of Information Development of the Republic of Republic of Moldova; Her Excellency Mrs. Dana BEROVA, Minister of Informatics of the Czech Republic; His Excellency Mr. Do TRUNG TA, Minister from Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Mr. Heizo TAKENAKA, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications from Japan; His Excellency Professor José Mariano GAGO, Minister of Sciences, Technologies, and Higher Education from Portugal; His Excellency Mr. Pavol PROKOPOVIC, Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of Slovak Republic; Her Excellency Gertrude KITEMBO, Minister of Posts, Telephones and Telecommunications of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; His Excellency Mr. Binali YILDIRIM, Minister of Transport of Turkey; Mr. Raymond JOHANSEN, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Norway; His Excellency Janusz STANCZYK, Undersecretary of State Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland; Mr. Kairat ABUSSEITOV, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan; His Excellency Mr. Ricardo GONZALEZ ARENAS, Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay; Her Excellency Astrid DUFBORG, Ambassador of Sweden; Mr. Guy-Olivier SEGOND, President of the Digital Solidarity Fund;

Mr. Jung NAM CHO, Vice Chairman and CEO of SK Telecom; Mrs. Bruna MOLINA FAIDUTTI, Deputy Secretary General of World Federation of United Nations Association – WFUNA (on behalf of Civil Society Human Rights Caucus); Ms. Latha GAURI, Community Reporter of OneWorld International, Member of Self Help Group, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (on behalf of Civil Society Grassroots Caucus)*.

7 The 6th plenary meeting, on 17 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Dr. Sofyan A. DJALIL, Minister for Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Dr. Tarek KAMEL, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Her Excellency Ms. Magda SHNIN, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Economic Relations of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Statements were made by (chronological order):

His Excellency Mr. Moritz LEUENBERGER, Vice President of the Confederation of Switzerland; His Excellency The Honourable Burchell WHITEMAN, Minister of Information of Jamaica; Her Excellency Dr. Martha PINTO DE HART, Minister of Communications of the Republic of Colombia; His Excellency Dr. Tarek KAMEL, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency Mr. Thierry BRETON, Minister of Economy, Finances and Industry of France; Engineer Oscar Chinchilla Guzman, Superintendente de Telecommunicationes of the Republic of Guatemala; Mr. Franz MORAK, State Secretary at the Federal Chancellery of Austria; His Excellency Mr. Zsolt NAGY, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Romania; His Excellency Lyonpo LEKI DORJI, Minister for Information and Communication of the Kingdom of Bhutan; His Excellency Mr. Dzemali MEHAZI, Minister of Transport of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Her Excellency Dr. Margarita CEDENO DE FERNANDEZ, First Lady and Minister of the Dominican Republic; His Excellency Mr. Alexander LOMAIA, Minister of Education and Science of Georgia; Mr. Jesus A. MEJA, Commissioner of National Commission of Telecommunications of the Republic of Honduras; Mr. Eduardo CALIX, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Presidential Commissioner for Puebla Panama; Mr. Tulio DEL BONO, Secretary of Science and Technology of Argentine Republic; Ms. Fay HOLTHUYZEN, Deputy Secretary of Communications, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts of Australia; His Excellency Mr. William JACOBY SALAZAR, Executive Secretary of the Council of Science and Technology of Nicaragua; Mr. Winston ROBERTS, Information Strategist, National Library of New Zealand; Honourable Mac HARB, Member of the Senate of Canada; Mr. Jorelik TIBNON, Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Her Excellency Tanya VELLA, Ambassador of Malta; Ms. Magaly PAZELLO, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era -DAWN (on behalf of Civil Society Gender Caucus); Mr. Guy SEBBAN, Secretary General of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); Mr. Amir DOSSAL, Executive Director of United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP); Ms. Sussan TAHMASEBI, Founding Member of Iranian Civil Society Organizations Training and Research Center (on behalf of Civil Society Middle East and West Asia Family); Mr. Philippe PETIT, Deputy Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

8 The 7th plenary meeting, on 18 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Mohamed GHANNOUCHI, Prime Minister of Tunisia; His Excellecy Professor Mohammad SOLEYMANI, Minister of Communication and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran; His Excellency Mr. Taieb HADHRI, Minister of Scientific Research, Technology and Development of Competences of Tunisia; His Excellency Mr. Jean-Michel HUBERT, Ambassador of France. Statements were made by (chronological order):

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* After the statement of His Excellency Mr. Andranik MARGARYAN, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Turkey made use of its Right of Reply. Also Greece made use of its Right of Reply at the end of the 6th Plenary meeting, with regard to the statement by His Excellency Mr. Dzemali MEHAZI, Minister of Transport of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

His Excellency Mr. Absalom THEMBA DLAMINI, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; His Excellency Archbishop John Patrick FOLEY, Holy See; Her Excellency Ms. Lynette EASTMOND, Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development of Barbados; The Right Honourable Abdul Moyeen KHAN, Minister of Science and Information Communication Technology of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; His Excellency Lim KENG YAUK, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia; His Excellency Mr. Abdulamlik AL-MOALEMI, Minister of Communication of the Republic of Yemen; His Excellency Mr. Mohamed SAEED, Minister of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Maldives; His Honour Palusalue FAAPO II, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of the Independent State of Samoa; His Excellency Mr. Ali ABBASOV, Minister for Communications and Information Technologies of Azerbaijani Republic; His Honour Pehin Dato ABU BAKAR APONG, Minister of Communication of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Dr. John MARBURGER, Special Representative of President and President's Science and Technology Adviser of the United States of America; His Excellency Dr. Ovidio DE JESUS AMARAE, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste; Her Excellency Ms. Patricia KALIATI, Minister of Information and Tourism of Malawi; His Excellency Amirzai SANGUIN, Minister of Communication of Afghanistan; His Excellency Professor Mohammad SOLEYMANI, Minister of Communication and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Her Excellency Hadja Aissatou BELA DIALLO, Minister of Information of the Republic of Guinea; His Excellency Mr. Frederic DOHOU, Minister of Communication and Promotion of New Technology of the Republic of Benin; Mr. James REGE, Permanent Secretary of the Republic of Kenya; Dr. Juan Carlos SOLINES MORENO, President of the National Council of Telecommunications (CONATEL) of Ecuador; Mr. Chalalambos SOTERIOU, Planning Officer for ICT Strategy of the Republic of Cyprus; Mr. Asadjon KHODJAEV, Deputy Director-General of Communications and Information Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan; His Excellency Sergei ALEINIK, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus; His Excellency Kweronda RUHEMBA, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda; Mr. Armand TELITI, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication of the Republic of Albania; Mr. Pier Ferdinando CASINI, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); Ms. Robin D. GROSS, Executive Director of IP Justice; Mr. Edouard DAYAN, Director-General of Universal Postal Union (UPU); Mr. Donald KABERUKA, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB); Mr. Mohamed TIJANI BEN JEMAA, Vice Chairman of The Committee on Information and Communication of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)(on behalf of Civil Society Science and Technology Community); Mr. Marcel A. BOISARD, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); Ms. Maud DE BOER BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Ms. Lynn ST AMOUR, President of Internet Society (ISOC); Mr. Shoji NISHIMOTO, Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

9 The 8th plenary meeting, on 18 November, was chaired by the following persons (chronological order): His Excellency Mr. Moritz LEUENBERGER, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation; His Excellency Mr. Taieb HADHRI, Minister of Scientific Research, Technology and Development of Competences of Tunisia; His Excellency Mr. Masood KHAN, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; His Excellency Mr. Mohamed GHANNOUCHI, Prime Minister of Tunisia; His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, President of Tunisia. Statements were made by (chronological order): Honourable Andrew Robert YATILMAN, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia; His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Jamil MULLA, Minister of Communication and IT of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Excellency Mr. Adama FOFANA, Minister for Relations with Parliament and Spokesman of Government of Burkina Faso; His Excellency Abdul Rahmane Mohamed CHALGHOM, Minister of Foreign Affair of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; His Excellency Mr. Oumarou HADARY, Minister of ICT of the Republic of the Niger.

His Excellency Professor Bountiem PHISSAMAY, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of Lao People's Democratic Republic; Honourable Nenneh MACDOUAL-GAYE, Secretary of State for Communication, Information & Technology of the Republic of the Gambia; His Excellency Mr. Muktar DJUMALIEV, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic; Her Excellency Raquel Alexandra POITEVIEN CABRAL, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Engineer Sergio Antonio TORO, Executive Director of the Republic of the Republic of Bolivia; Mr. Rafael MUENTE, Chief of the Bureau of E-government and Information Technologies of Peru; His Excellency Dr. Franz Graf von HARNONCOURT-UNVERZAGT, President, Council for Communications of Sovereign Military Order of Malta; His Excellency Mr. Adama SAMASSEKOU, President of the Preparatory Committee of the Geneva phase of WSIS.

CHAPTER IV

Round Tables and High-Level Panel

1 In accordance with a decision taken at the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, of the Tunis Phase the Summit convened two Round Tables and one High-Level Panel on 16 and 17 November 2005, respectively. The two Round Tables were intended to provide Heads of State or Government with the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion on the overarching theme "From Commitment to Action: Implementation after Tunis" with leaders from international organizations, business and civil society entities attending the Summit. The theme of the High Level Panel was "ICT for Development". Participants included representatives from Governments, United Nations agencies, other international organizations, the business sector and civil society. All three events were part of the official Summit (Agenda item 10).

2 The reports of the two Round Tables and the High-Level Panel are annexed (See Annexes 2A, 2B and 2C).

CHAPTER V

Report of the Credentials Committee

1 Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Summit on the Information Society provides that:

> "A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Summit. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at the time the respective Summit phase is held. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Summit without delay."

2 At its organizational meeting on 16 November 2005, the Tunis Summit, in accordance with rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee having its composition based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixtieth session, namely, Cameroon, China, Panama, Portugal, Saint Lucia*, Samoa, Sierra Leone**, Russian Federation and the United States of America.

3 The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 18 November 2005.

4 Mme Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds (Trinidad and Tobago) was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Credentials Committee.

5 The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General of the Summit dated 18 November 2005 on the credentials of representatives of States and of the European Community to the Summit. The Secretary of the Credentials Committee made a statement relating to the memorandum of the Secretary-General of the Summit, in which, *inter alia*, he updated the memorandum to indicate credentials and communications received after its initial preparation.

6 As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the Summit, in the form required by Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Summit, had been received as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 112 States and the European Community:

> Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Côte D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, European Community, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen.

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* Trinidad and Tobago replaced Saint Lucia.

** Nigeria replaced Sierra Leone.

7 As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of the representatives of States to the Summit had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Summit, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the following 39 States:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

8 As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, the following 23 States participating in the Summit had not, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, communicated to the Secretary-General of the Summit any information regarding its representatives to the Summit:

Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo (Republic of the), Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Zimbabwe.

9 The Committee decided to accept the credentials of the representatives of all States and the European Community listed in the above-mentioned memorandum and the statement relating thereto, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present report would be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Summit as soon as possible.

10 The Committee adopted the following draft resolution without a vote:

"*The Credentials Committee*,

"*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the World Summit on the Information Society referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General of the Summit dated 18 November 2005,

"*Accepts* the credentials of the representatives of the States and of the European Community referred to in the above-mentioned memorandum."

11 The Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the Summit the adoption of a draft resolution (see para.13 below).

12 In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Summit.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

13 The Credentials Committee recommends to the Summit the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Credentials of representatives to the World Summit on the Information Society"

"*The World Summit on the Information Society*,

"*Having considered* the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

"*Approves* the report of the Credentials Committee."

Action taken by the Summit:

14 At its 8th Plenary meeting, on 18 November 2005, the Summit considered the report of the Credentials Committee (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/8(Rev.1)).

15 The Summit adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (For the text of the resolution see Chapter I, Section C of this Report).

16 The following Annex A was published at 18 November 1900 hours as an update.

Annex A

Status of the Credentials as of 18 November, 19 hours

1. Formal credentials of representatives to the Summit, in the form required by rule 3 and 4 of the rules of procedure of the Summit, had been received as at 18 November 19 hours, from the following 118 States and the European Community:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, European Community, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen.

2. Information concerning the appointment of the representatives of States to the Summit had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Summit, as at 18 November, 19 hours, by means of a telefax from the head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the following 34 States:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Canada, Colombia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

3. The following 21 States participating in the Summit had not, as of 18 November, 19 hours, communicated to the Secretary-General of the Summit any information regarding its representatives to the Summit:

Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo (Republic of the), Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER VI

Reports from Multi-stakeholder Events

4 Similarly, Mr. Karmelo SAENZ DE LA MANZA, President of the Basque Association of Municipalities and Mr. Abbes MOSHEN, Mayor of Tunis and President of the Tunisian Association of Municipalities, when reporting on the Second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society, referred to the political Declaration of the II World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society, adopted at Bilbao on 11 November 2005. This Declaration was handed over to the Secretary General of the Summit, Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, and is available at
http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/listing.asp?lang=en&c_event=5%2&c_type=cong>

CHAPTER VII

Adoption of the "Tunis Commitment"

1. On the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the Summit considered the draft "Tunis Commitment" transmitted to it by a note of the President of the Preparatory Committee (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7).

2. At its 6th Plenary meeting on 18 November 2005, the Summit unanimously adopted the "Tunis Commitment" (for the text of the Tunis Commitment see chapter I section A of this Report).

3. The following Interpretative Statement was submitted to the Executive Secretariat:

A. Interpretative Statement by the United States of America

1. The United States is pleased to join consensus on the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which represent an important milestone in the international community's efforts toward development of the Information Society. The United States requests that this interpretative statement be included in the written proceedings of this Summit. Our joining consensus is based, in part, on the understandings set forth herein.

2. The United States stresses that the freedom of opinion and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with freedom of the press, are the essential foundations of the Information Society.

3. Throughout this process, the inclusion of multiple stakeholders has been the foundation of the work of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The United States firmly believes that this must continue to be the case. This inclusive approach will ensure that the implementation and follow-up of this successful Summit will expand the benefits of the digital society to all. To that end, the United States wishes to reiterate that the Annex to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society is indicative only and non-exhaustive. The United States also envisages that, notwithstanding the specific references to the role of governments in paragraph 8 of the Tunis Commitment and paragraph 85 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the implementation and follow-up processes from the Summit, including the Internet Governance Forum, will include governments, civil society, private sector, and international and regional organizations working together to maximize their combined capabilities and contributions.

4. The United States also notes that the Agenda for the Information Society spells out a role for ECOSOC, and possibly the U.N. Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in the follow-up to the Summit. We expect that the incorporation of the WSIS follow-up into ECOSOC will be part of the overall process of U.N. reform that is necessary to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the many component U.N. organizations.

5. The United States understands the term "right to development" in Paragraph 3 of the Tunis Commitment to mean that each individual should enjoy the right to develop his or her intellectual or other capabilities to the maximum extent possible through the exercise of the full range of civil and political rights. The lack of development cannot be invoked to justify abridgement of human rights.

6. The United States notes the several references in both the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society to the importance of good governance to the Information Society. The United States interprets the references to "good governance" to mean sound economic policies (including pro-competitive policies), solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of, and transparent to, the people, and, respect for human rights and for the rule of law.

7. The United States believes that the proactive dialogue on matters related to corporate social responsibility and good corporate governance referred to in paragraph 17 of the Tunis Commitment should involve all stakeholders, including both national and transnational corporations.

8. The United States interprets the reference in paragraph 31 of the Tunis Commitment to a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system to include meaningful trade liberalization, as set forth in paragraph 27 of the U.N. 2005 World Summit Outcome document (A/60/L.1). As noted in the World Summit Outcome document, trade liberalization contributes to the stimulation of development worldwide and ensures that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

9. The United States understands that the references to transfer of technology in paragraphs 8-9, 49, 54 and 89 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including those specifically stating "transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms," mean that, in the case of technologies and know-how subject to intellectual property rights, any transfers must be on a freely negotiated, mutually-agreed basis. This is true regardless of whether transferor and transferee are governments, private entities, or others.

CHAPTER VIII

Adoption of the "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society"

1. On the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the Summit considered the draft "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society", transmitted to it by a note of the President of the Preparatory Committee (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)).

2. At its 8th Plenary meeting on 18 November 2005, the Summit unanimously adopted the "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society" (for the text of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society see chapter I section B of this report).

3. The following Interpretative Statement was submitted to the Executive Secretariat:

A. Interpretative Statement by Costa Rica:

Concerning the "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society"
(Document WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1))

Paragraph 13. Costa Rica's interpretation is that none of the terms of this paragraph prevent it from maintaining its policy whereby public investment in ICTs continues, and will continue, to be a priority for our country, as an ideal means of ensuring that the benefits of ICTs reach the entire population in a ubiquitous, equitable and affordable manner.

Paragraph 14. Costa Rica's interpretation is that the important thing is that the necessary investment in ICT infrastructure and for the development of new services should be forthcoming, irrespective of whether such investment comes from the public or private sector.

Paragraph 16. Costa Rica points out that, in line with its national reality and institutional framework, investment in ICTs has been, and continues to be, essentially public in nature.

Paragraph 21. Costa Rica's interpretation is that public finance for providing ICT access may include direct State investment in ICT infrastructure.

B. Interpretative Statement by the United States of America:

The interpretative statement submitted by the United States of America and reproduced in Chapter VII above also includes references to the "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society". Please refer to Chapter VII, A. for details.

CHAPTER IX

Adoption of the Draft Report of the Tunis phase of the Summit

1 At the 8th Plenary meeting on 18 November 2005, the Rapporteur introduced the Draft Report of the Tunis Phase of the Summit (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/9).

2 At the same meeting, the Summit adopted the Draft Report and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the Report.

CHAPTER X

Closing of the Tunis phase of the Summit

1 At the 8th Plenary meeting on 18 November 2005, closing addresses were delivered by His Excellency Mr. Yoshio UTSUMI, Secretary-General of ITU and Secretary-General of the Summit; His Excellency Mr. Moritz LEUENBERGER, Vice President of the Swiss Confederation and His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, President of the Republic of Tunisia;

2 At the same meeting, the President of the Republic of Tunisia declared the Tunis Phase of the WSIS closed.

ANNEX I

List of Documents before the Summit

The following documents were before the Summit:

A. Official Documents:

1. Draft Agenda of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/1)
2. Draft Amendment of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedures of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/2)
3. Proposed Format of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/3)
4. Report on the Preparatory Process of the second phase of the Summit (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/4)
5. Report on the WSIS Stocktaking (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/5)
6. Draft "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society" (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)
7. Draft "Tunis Commitment" (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7)
8. Report of the Credentials Committee to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/8(Rev.1))
9. Draft Report of the Tunis phase of WSIS (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/9)

B. Administrative Documents :

1. Information for Participants (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/1)
2. Annotated Agenda of the Tunis phase (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/2)
3. Draft Agenda of the Organizational Meeting of the Tunis phase (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/3)
4. Guidelines for the distribution of publications, documents, and any other printed materials on the premises of the Summit (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/4)
5. Guidelines regarding the conduct of Parallel Events (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/5)
6. Draft Agenda of the Eighth and last Plenary Meeting (WSIS-05/TUNIS/ADM/6)

ANNEX 2A

WSIS Round Table I

"From Commitment to Action: Implementation after Tunis"

The WSIS Round Table I on the theme "From Commitment to Action: Implementation after Tunis" took place on 17 November 2005 in Tunis. The meeting was organized in the form of an open dialogue enriched by national experiences and practical suggestions. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Guy Olivier Segond, President of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF). Distinguished Round Table guests included 9 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, 4 representatives of the International Organisations, 3 representatives of the business sector and 2 representatives of the civil society.

The main focus of the discussion centered on policies and strategies fostering development of the information society. As the Tunis phase of the Summit focuses on implementation, many contributions demonstrated stakeholders' plans for future activities.

The participants stated that in order to bridge digital divide diverse strategies have to be elaborated on the national, regional as well as international level. The strategies will depend on the characteristics of each country and region, including the cultural ones. Many countries demonstrate significant progress in creating comprehensive e-strategies and e-policies. However, it is necessary to stress that because of the high innovation dynamics in the ICT sector, these strategies and policies require continuous adjustments. The participants agreed that this, domains, namely partnerships, multi-stakeholder approach and enhanced international cooperation are the key elements for the success and should be further promoted.

The participants widely recognized that massive investment in infrastructure was required in order to achieve access for all. It was pointed out, however, that financial resources respond to market forces and do not necessarily reach poor communities in under-served areas. Innovative funding mechanisms are needed in this respect.

Infrastructure related issues were not the only focus. The participants stressed that content requires more attention of all stakeholders. In particular, the possible ways to foster development of local content in national languages become challenging. It was underlined that the exclusion of indigenous language may be seen as one of the important obstacles for further development of the information society.

The participants expressed the view that in order to build a self-sustainable information society, the stakeholders have to pay more attention to development of the human capacity. Taking into consideration the increasing role of new services like e-health, e-government, e-learning and others, the stakeholders have to guarantee that information society remains inclusive for all. It should prevent creation of new divides.

Several interventions noted that the stakeholders should pay more attention to the youth. The young generation represents the potential to innovate and for the continuation of sustainable development, they should be granted access and participation in the information society by any means. The medium and long-term youth oriented e-strategies may lead to structural change of each economy. Also gender issues should be discussed more often, and particular measures leading to increased gender balanced participation should be encouraged.

The participants underlined that high innovation dynamics in the ICT sector demands continuous revision of national strategies focusing on the development of the information society. In particular, for the developing countries the rapid technological progress offers new opportunities for enhanced connectivity as well as broader functionality of acquired ICTs. Nevertheless, the countries should

be conscious of their goals to be achieved in the medium and long term and consequently follow the advancements.

Many representatives from the developing countries discussed diverse strategies to foster enhanced connectivity. Some of them expressed the view that focusing on communities at first may give tangible effects in a very short time period even without involvement of significant financial means. They found it effective to foster creation of the multimedia centers or knowledge centers that in the middle and long run develop human capacity enough to be able to start benefiting from the advantages that ICTs can offer.

The predominant role of the private sector in the development of the information society was underlined. It remains as one of the biggest challenges for each stakeholder to find appropriate business models to generate return on investments even in the developing world. Additionally, in circumstances where affordability is one of the key problems for the dissemination of ICTs, innovative financing mechanisms play an important role.

It was stressed that the monitoring of the information society is crucial for further progress. Through measuring ICTs, it is intended to develop means that would enable optimization of policy making at the national and international level. There is still a lot to be done in this field. Some countries face problems with extracting reliable and comparable statistics. The assistance of diverse stakeholders including international organizations is very valuable.

Participants:

Moderator: Mr. Guy Olivier SEGOND, President, Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF)

Secretary: Mr. Abdelkrim BOUSSAID, International Telecommunication Union

Heads of State or Government and Ministers (in alphabetical order)

H.E. Mr. Laurens-Jan BRINKHORST, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Affairs, Netherlands

H.E. Mrs. Luisa DIAS DIOGO, Prime Minister, Mozambique

H.E. Mr. José Mariano GAGO, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

H.E. Dr. Tarek KAMEL, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt

H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim KENG YAIK, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia

H.E. Dr. Abdul Moyeen KHAN, Minister for Sciences and ICT, Bangladesh

H.E. Alhaji Aliu MAHAMA, Vice-President, Republic of Ghana

H.E. Mr. Zsolt NAGY, Minister of Communication and Information Technology Romania

H.E. Sr. Gaspar TARTE, Presidential Secretariat for Government Innovation, Republic of Panamá

International Organizations (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Paolo GARONNA, Officer-in-Charge, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Dr. Kim HAK-SU, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Asia & Pacific (ESCAP)

Dr. Supachai PANITCHPAKDI, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ms. Katherine SIERRA, Vice-President, The World Bank

Business Community (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Kiran KARNIK, President, NASSCOM

Mr. Ahmed MAHJOUB, Chief Executive Officer, Telecom Tunisia

Mr. Paul TWOMEY, Chief Executive Officer, ICANN

Civil Society (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Gbenga SESAN, Programme Manager of the Lagos Digital Village, Junior Achievement of Nigeria

Mr. Parminder Jeet SINGH, Executive Director, IT for Change

ANNEX 2B

WSIS Round Table II

"From Commitment to Action: Implementation after Tunis"

Participants:

Moderator: Mr. Vadoma[illegible] DIAO, Executive Editor, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)

Secretary: Mr. Abdelkrim BOUSSAID, International Telecommunication Union

Heads of State or Government and Ministers (in alphabetical order):

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Under Secretary for Communications, Mexico

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Prime Minister, Swaziland

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Minister for Information and Communications, Cuba

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Minister for Information, Republic of Guinea

H.E. Ambassador Masood KHAN, Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Pakistan

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand

H.E. Mr. [illegible], Vice President of the Swiss Confederation, Switzerland

H.E. Mr. Mario Guillermo MORENO, Secretary for Communications, Argentina

H.E. Mr. Pakalitha MOSISILI MP, Prime Minister, Lesotho

H.E. Mr. Phillip PAULWELL, Minister of Commerce, Science and Technology, Jamaica

International Organizations (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Roberto BLOIS, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr. Jose Luis MACHINEA, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

Mr. Jose Antonio OCAMPO, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Ms. Mervat M. TALLAWI, Executive Secretary, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Business Community (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Yvon LEROUX, Vice President, Cisco Systems

Mr. Veli SUNDBACK, Executive Vice President, Nokia

Civil Society (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Mohamed Elyes BEN MARZOUK, President, Organisation tunisienne des jeunes medecins sans frontieres

Mr. Monthian BUNTAN, President, Thailand Association of the Blind
World Blind Union

Ms. Tatiana ERSHOVA, Director General, The Institute of the Information Society
Global Knowledge Partnership

Ms. Annette ESTERHUYSEN, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications

ANNEX 2C

Report from the WSIS High Level Panel

WSIS High-Level Panel: "ICT for Development"

The WSIS High-Level Panel on ICT for Development took place on 16 November 2005 in Tunis during the World Summit on Information Society. The Panel was organized on a dynamic format that facilitated open dialogue between the panelists and the audience. The discussion was moderated by Professor Eli Noam of Columbia University. The distinguished panelists included, in alphabetical order:

- H.E. Mr. Laurens-Jan BRINKHORST, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Affairs of the Netherlands
- Dr. Pape DIOUF, President of « Diaspora Africaine pour la Societe de l'Information »(DAPSI)
- H.E. Mr. Phillip PAULWELL, Minister of Commerce, Science and Technology of Jamaica
- Mr. Noah SAMARA, Chief Executive Officer of WorldSpace
- Mr. Yoshio UTSUMI, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union

The panelists stated that the World Summit on the Information Society aims to raise awareness of the importance of ICTs and to promote the best use of the opportunities that ICTs offer to everyone. By reaching a political agreement on the necessity of expanding the Information Society, states endorse that sustainable development may not be achievable without ICTs. ICTs are also important tools in the struggle to eradicate poverty, which is one of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for the year 2015. The focus of the Tunisian phase of the WSIS on the implementation mechanism opens new perspectives for accelerated expansion of the Information Society in the future.

The panelists and members of the audience emphasized the need to continue the global multi-stakeholder dialogue initiated during the WSIS process. It was underlined that the involvement of the civil society, and private sector in the WSIS process has played a vital role in its success. These stakeholders have the ability to raise awareness and identify needs of the population, simultaneously proposing best solutions. In spite of the many problems they face in their day-to-day operations, they have the ability to network and define appropriate strategies for many development objectives, including the whole spectrum of the MDGs, in synergy with the private sector and governments.

The panelists underlined that the digital divide poses challenges to all stakeholders. The approaches followed to close the gap of the digital divide are very diverse and depend on the characteristics of each country. The panelists stated that the ongoing discussion on the digital divide should not be restricted to issues of access. Technological progress and the evolving ICT environment make it necessary to use a wider focus when dealing with the information divide. Access to information is important for many developing countries and any ICTs that enable communications are crucial for further development of the global information society. The panelists underlined that for the purposes of bridging the digital divide any communication means may be used. Taking into consideration the significant demand for ICTs in developing countries and their limited financial resources, the use of recycled hardware from the developed world may provide new opportunities to these countries. Through their efforts to bridge the digital divide, stakeholders should also

contribute to the democratization of information, which will help bridge the knowledge divide as well.

Many diverse strategies have been elaborated on and put into practice in order to bridge the digital divide. The panelists and members of the audience underlined that differences in the characteristics of developing and developed economies make it difficult for developing countries to apply best practices from the developed world under their particular circumstances. For instance, in view of the significant obstacle that affordability poses to developing countries in promoting the fast dissemination of ICTs, connecting communities may provide a more suitable way for these countries to bridge the digital divide. The establishment of tele-centers throughout the country develops a new ICT infrastructure that may be sustainable through the cooperation of governments, local NGOs, and private entrepreneurs. This model is being implemented in many countries at this time.

The discussion of the other possible remedies for the digital divide led to the conclusion that partnerships are a key factor for achieving success in this area. All stakeholders have to join forces in order to accelerate the process of connecting the communities. Therefore the multi-stakeholder approach, as one of particular characteristics of the WSIS process, should be further promoted. Rough estimations demonstrate that the costs of connecting an additional one billion people to telecommunication services would not exceed one percent of the annual investment worldwide. This demonstrates existing potential of the ICT sector and creates incentives for the creation of new successful partnerships that would help to bridge the digital divide. Initiatives such as "Connect the World", that foster the creation of sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships should be highly appreciated. The development of innovative financing mechanisms also requires more attention. Developing countries in cooperation with new partners may elaborate efficient business models that will create incentives for private investment. The model of micro-financing developed by Grameen Foundation was presented as an example. The panelists discussed the value of new international initiatives, including the Digital Solidarity Fund and pointed out that, while the fund is very important for bridging of divide, it still requires increased participation.

One outstanding question is how long it would take to reach the next billion of new ICT users. The panelists pointed out that bridging of divide would require vast investment programmes as well as the creation of an enabling environment. Stakeholders have to reconsider how to create additional incentives in order to mobilize the appropriate parties to extend the network and attract new ICT users. This is particularly important for remote areas where traditional business models do not offer high returns on investment. Wireless technologies create new opportunities for the provision of affordable connectivity, nevertheless their deployment requires time and financial resources. In the recent years, many countries created universal service funds to support infrastructure development, nevertheless the development of complementary financing mechanisms is still desirable.

Governments play a very important role as the designers of the institutional framework. The expansion of ICTs is unstoppable and requires comprehensive policies to guide their expansion in accordance with national development plans, as well as an enabling regulatory framework to promote their deployment. The technological revolution makes it very challenging to create a new institutional environment that can foster market development as well as enable the achievement of connectivity goals in the near future. As all governments are confronted with similar decisions, the support of existing multilateral organizations in achieving these goals was highlighted by the panelists. In particular, the panelists underscored the importance of fostering the exchange of best practices in this area. The example of India and its strategy for connecting remote areas has demonstrated that the creation of an enabling environment can very often be a more effective and efficient strategy than the sole use of traditional financing mechanisms. In line with the expansion of electronic media, the issue of multilingualism is increasingly capturing the attention of the broad public. It has become a new challenge for policy makers as well as for regulators to develop new mechanisms for fostering the development of content in local languages.

The panelists stressed that ICTs create many new opportunities for developing and developed countries. The world is becoming increasingly global and ICTs foster this development. Through ICTs many economies can get access to the new market places. For many entities it has become significantly easier to find niches and internationalize their business activities to provide goods or services.

The panelists underlined that ICTs create new opportunities for accelerated development, but also bring about new risks. Cybersecurity, privacy issues and SPAM, among others, have become more and more important and challenging for all stakeholders. Close cooperation among the stakeholders, as well as the involvement of international organizations in order to foster global debate on these issues should help deal with the new threats.

In their concluding remarks the participants underlined the particular role of the Summit as the most important global meeting in 2005 dealing with political, economic and social issues. Recognizing the tremendous value of ICTs, the countries confirmed their readiness to face challenges related to the use of ICTs for the promotion of development.

United Nations

A/60/688

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda items 82 and 117

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as the Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006, I have the honour to inform that the African Group has noted, with concern, the decision of the Security Council to hold separate open debates on the themes, "Peacekeeping operation management (procurement)" and "Sexual exploitation in United Nations peacekeeping missions", scheduled for Wednesday, 22 February and Thursday, 23 February 2006, respectively.

The African Group's concern is based on its longstanding and well-known position of safeguarding the authority of the General Assembly as the primary deliberative and policy-making organ of the United Nations. It is therefore in that context that the Group views the decision of the Security Council as not only an encroachment on the responsibilities and functions of the General Assembly, but also incompatible with the current spirit of the ongoing discussions aimed at revitalizing the General Assembly.

The Group therefore wishes to rely on your able leadership to institute necessary measures aimed at safeguarding the primacy and authority of the General Assembly as the deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. The execution of its mandate effectively and without hindrances from other organs such as the Security Council is indispensable to its revitalization.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 82 and 117.

(*Signed*) Joe Robert **Pemagbi**
Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006

06-25115 (E) 230206

United Nations

A/60/889

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 82
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Identical letters dated 22 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I am obliged to draw your attention to the recent undisguised manoeuvrings of the United States of America to legitimize the "Proliferation Security Initiative" (PSI).

The United States-devised PSI is based on unilateralism, selectivity and double standards, reflecting dangerous ideas for aggravating instability in regions and beyond by provoking military collisions.

The United States is plotting to drag other countries into the PSI against specific countries. This constitutes virtual violation of international law, completely destroying the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulates respect for State sovereignty and the international legal system that was established with great care for world peace and security.

In this regard, I particularly stress that direct or indirect joining in the PSI by certain countries participating in the six-party talks would create new artificial obstacles to the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will take practical counter-measures if even an inch of its sovereignty is encroached upon by the PSI.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 82.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador

06-25127 (E) 230206

United Nations A/60/690

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda items 42 and 43

Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

Letter dated 13 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/37, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives", I have the honour to report to you hereinafter the measures taken by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in connection with the enhancement of the protection of embassies and consulates accredited to the Syrian Arab Republic following the publication by newspapers in a number of countries of offensive drawings of the Prophet Muhammad, as well as the measures taken in connection with the demonstrations of anger and protest against the publication of those drawings and the steps taken to deal with their consequences.

- A few days prior to the start of the demonstrations of anger and protest, the competent authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic took a number of anticipatory measures to strengthen the guarding and protection of all embassies and consulates, their members and members' places of residence, in particular the embassies and consulates of the countries whose media published the offensive cartoons.

- Numerous demonstrations were held during the days that preceded 4 February 2006. Those who took part in them, who numbered in the dozens, peacefully expressed their protest and anger over the publication of the offensive drawings of the Prophet.

- On 4 February, a large demonstration was held. The demonstration began peacefully, its participants, who were reckoned to be in the thousands, gathering in front of a building housing a group of embassies. The forces of law and order were increased immediately with a view to ensuring the security and safety of the accredited embassies. However, the peaceful demonstration suddenly turned to the use of violence, and despite the efforts made by the police and security forces, who tried with available means, namely tear gas,

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water hoses and the formation of a human shield, to prevent the demonstrators from approaching the embassies in question, and despite the appeals made by officials and spiritual leaders, some of the demonstrators managed to cause damage to a number of embassies.

- The use of force by some of those participating in the demonstration resulted in the injury of dozens of members of the police and security forces as they performed their duty of protecting the embassies, and a number of them were taken to hospitals to receive first aid treatment.

- The moment the peaceful demonstrations suddenly turned violent, the security authorities increased their presence and stepped up their security measures around all diplomatic and consular missions and places of residence of diplomatic and consular representatives. They set up barriers in all streets leading to the embassies which the demonstrators tried to reach after the outbreak of the acts of violence and turmoil and used water hoses and tear gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators and prevent them from approaching those embassies.

- The security authorities arrested and questioned those suspected of having caused damage to a number of diplomatic missions and legal measures against those responsible for causing such damage are currently being prepared.

- Telephone calls were made between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Sweden and Norway, in which the Minister expressed his regret over what had happened. He pointed out that protective measures had been stepped up and reaffirmed Syria's commitment to and respect for international agreements. The Syrian Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs made calls to a number of ambassadors of States whose embassies had been damaged and to the Ambassador of Austria, whose country currently chairs the European Union, to express regret over the events that had taken place. He also assured him of the commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to international agreements and informed him that the conducting of the required investigations had commenced.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic issued a press release in which it expressed its regret over the acts of violence that had accompanied the protest demonstrations on 4 February 2006, resulting in material damage to a number of embassies in Damascus. The Ministry added that, though the feelings of enormous popular wrath at the offences targeting the Prophet were understandable, it was not permissible to violate the rules of law and order in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the obligation of the Syrian Arab Republic under the international agreements pertaining to the guarantee of security for embassies and their members. He stated that further measures had been adopted to guard and protect diplomatic missions and that there was no truth whatsoever to the existence of any threats aimed at nationals of certain countries in the Syrian Arab Republic.

- On 6 February 2006, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs met with the European Troika, chaired by the Austrian Ambassador and including the Ambassador of Finland, the Swiss Charge d'affaires and the Ambassador of

the European Commission, also acting on behalf of Norway and Canada. The Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs met with the Norwegian Ambassador on 8 February and with a delegation from the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 February. During those meetings, the regret of the Syrian Arab Republic over what had taken place was expressed, as was its willingness to honour its liability for the damage that had resulted from the acts of violence, arising under international agreements, in particular article 22 of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

- A committee made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Damascus Governorate has begun its work of making an inventory of the damage and restoring the damaged embassy buildings with a view to satisfying the liabilities of the Syrian Arab Republic under international agreements. In addition, a temporary headquarters has been provided for the Chilean embassy.

- The Austrian Ambassador, whose country chairs the European Union, communicated with the Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and thanked him for the security measures taken.

- The French Ambassador stated that the demonstrators tried to enter the French embassy, but the security and police forces succeeded in preventing them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France, moreover, contacted the Syrian Ambassador in Paris to express to her its thanks for the security measures taken by the Syrian authorities to protect the embassy.

As we present these facts, it is regrettable that officials in one country, which has made it a policy to exert pressure on the Syrian Arab Republic and deliberately distort its positions, are ignoring the measures referred to above and issuing statements having no basis in reality. They have twisted the facts and misrepresented the measures taken by the Syrian Government based on its commitment to international law and the performance of its obligation to protect diplomatic missions. This unfair campaign has been joined by newspapers and media known for the malicious, misleading stands taken by them.

The Syrian Arab Republic looks to the international community to do its duty in confronting the campaign against the symbols of the revealed religions, with a view to ensuring respect for all religions and their symbols, and to continue working towards a dialogue of civilizations and striving together to strengthen the spirit of tolerance among all peoples.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic requests to have the present letter circulated among the States Members of the United Nations within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/37, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". He also requests to have it circulated as a document of the Security Council under agenda items 42 and 43.

(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/

General Assembly

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English
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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 42 and 43

Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

Letter dated 13 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/37, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives", I have the honour to report to you hereinafter the measures taken by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in connection with the establishments of the Embassies and consulates accredited to the Syrian Arab Republic, following the publication by newspapers in a number of countries of offensive drawings of the Prophet Muhammad, as well as the measures taken in connection with the demonstrations of anger and protest against the publication of those drawings and the steps taken to deal with their consequences.

- A few days prior to the start of the demonstrations of anger and protest, the competent authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic took a number of anticipatory measures to strengthen the guarding and protection of the embassies and consulates, their members and members' places of residence, in particular the embassies and consulates of the countries where media published the offensive cartoons.

- Numerous demonstrations were held during the days that preceded 4 February 2006. Those who took part in them, who numbered in the dozens, peacefully expressed their protest and anger over the publication of the offensive drawings of the Prophet.

- On 4 February, a large demonstration was held. The demonstration began peacefully, its participants, who were estimated to be in the thousands, gathering in front of a building housing a group of embassies. The forces of law and order were increased immediately with a view to ensuring the security and safety of the accredited embassies. However, the peaceful demonstration suddenly turned to the use of violence, and despite the efforts made by the

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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police and security forces, who tried with available means, namely tear gas, water hoses and the formation of a human shield, to prevent the demonstrators from approaching the embassies in question, and despite the appeals made by officials and spiritual leaders, some of the demonstrators managed to cause damage to a number of embassies.

- The use of force by some of those participating in the demonstration resulted in the injury of dozens of members of the police and security forces as they performed their duty of protecting the embassies, and a number of them were taken to hospitals to receive first aid treatment.

- The moment the peaceful demonstrations suddenly turned violent, the security authorities increased their presence and stepped up their security measures around all diplomatic and consular missions and places of residence of diplomatic and consular representatives. They set up barriers in all streets leading to the embassies which the demonstrators tried to reach after the outbreak of the acts of violence and turmoil and used water hoses and tear gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators and prevent them from approaching those embassies.

- The security authorities arrested and questioned those suspected of having caused damage to a number of diplomatic missions and legal measures against those responsible for causing such damage are currently being prepared.

- Telephone calls were made between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Sweden and Norway, in which the Minister expressed his regret over what had happened. He pointed out that protective measures had been stepped up and reaffirmed Syria's commitment to and respect for international agreements. The Syrian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs made calls to a number of ambassadors of States whose embassies had been damaged and to the Ambassador of Austria, whose country currently chairs the European Union, to express regret over the events that had taken place. He also assured him of the commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to international agreements and informed him that the conducting of the required investigations had commenced.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic issued a press release in which it expressed its regret over the acts of violence that had accompanied the protest demonstrations on 4 February 2006, resulting in material damage to a number of embassies in Damascus. The Ministry added that, though the feelings of enormous popular wrath at the offences targeting the Prophet were understandable, it was not permissible to violate the rules of law and order in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the obligation of the Syrian Arab Republic under the international agreements pertaining to the guarantee of security for embassies and their members. He stated that further measures had been adopted to guard and protect diplomatic missions and that there was no truth whatsoever to the existence of any threats aimed at nationals of certain countries in the Syrian Arab Republic.

- On 6 February 2006, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs met with the European Troika, chaired by the Austrian Ambassador and including the

Ambassador of Finland, the Swiss Chargé d'affaires and the Ambassador of the European Commission, also acting on behalf of Norway and Canada. The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs met with the Norwegian Ambassador on 8 February and with a delegation from the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 February. During those meetings, the regret of the Syrian Arab Republic over what had taken place was expressed, as was its willingness to honour its liability for the damage that had resulted from the acts of violence, arising under international agreements, in particular article 22 of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

- A committee made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Damascus Governorate has begun its work of making an inventory of the damage and restoring the damaged embassy buildings with a view to satisfying the liabilities of the Syrian Arab Republic under international agreements. In addition, a temporary headquarters has been provided for the Chilean embassy.

- The Austrian Ambassador, whose country chairs the European Union, communicated with the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and thanked him for the security measures taken.

- The French Ambassador stated that the demonstrators tried to enter the French embassy, but the security and police forces succeeded in preventing them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France moreover, contacted the Syrian Ambassador in Paris to express to him its thanks for the security measures taken by the Syrian authorities to protect the embassy.

As we present these facts, it is regrettable that officials in one country, which has made it a policy to exert pressure on the Syrian Arab Republic and deliberately distort its positions, are ignoring the measures referred to above and issuing statements having no basis in reality. They have twisted the facts and misrepresented the measures taken by the Syrian Government, based on its commitment to international law and the performance of its obligation to protect diplomatic missions. This unfair campaign has been joined by newspapers and media known for the malicious, misleading stands taken by them.

The Syrian Arab Republic looks to the international community to do its duty in confronting the campaign against the symbols of the revealed religions, with a view to ensuring respect for all religions and their symbols, and to continue working towards a dialogue of civilizations and striving together to strengthen the spirit of tolerance among all peoples.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic requests to have the present letter circulated among the States Members of the United Nations within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/37 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". He also requests to have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 42 and 43.

(Signed) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/60/691

General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 121 and 136

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2005

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides additional information in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as contained in its report on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period ended 30 June 2005 (A/60/5 (Vol. II)). The report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 48/216 B, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to report to the Assembly at the same time as the Board of Auditors submitted its recommendations to the Assembly, on measures taken or to be taken to implement those recommendations.

Given that the Administration has concurred with many of the Board's recommendations and that most of the comments of the Secretary-General have been duly reflected in the report of the Board, the present report addresses only those recommendations that require further comments from the Administration.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/216 B, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the measures that would be taken to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors at the same time that the report of the Board was submitted to the Assembly. Accordingly, the present report is submitted in response to the recommendations of the Board contained in its report on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2005.

2. In preparing the present report, account was taken of the provisions of the following General Assembly resolutions:

(a) Resolution 52/212 B (in particular paras. 2 to 5) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the proposals of the Board for improving the implementation of its recommendations approved by the Assembly (A/52/753, annex);

(b) Resolution 58/249 (in particular paras. 4 and 10, regarding consolidation of reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board);

(c) Resolution 60/254, in which the Assembly, in paragraph 11, re-emphasized the requirement of inclusion by the Secretary-General in future reports of information on the setting of time frames, the identification of office-holders, and provisions for implementation.

II. Additional comments on the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors

3. **In paragraph 38 of the report of the Board of Auditors, the Board recommended that the Administration assess the reasons for the increase in savings and cancellations of prior-year unliquidated obligations and implement measures to address the shortcomings.**

4. The Accounts Division continues to reiterate to field missions and to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations the importance of accuracy in establishing obligations, which would ultimately result in reduced savings. The Controller has also written to the Office of Mission Support/Department of Peacekeeping Operations asking for corrective actions to be taken. The obligations at the close of fiscal 2006 will be closely reviewed for appropriateness and accuracy.

5. **In paragraph 41, the Board remained of the view that the clearance of those long-outstanding amounts would be possible only with the intervention of the Member States concerned.**

6. The Secretary-General is submitting a proposal on consolidation of accounts, which, if approved by the General Assembly, would permit the settlement of long-outstanding payables in the accounts of closed missions with cash deficits.

7. **In paragraph 44, the Board reiterated its view that the clearance of these long-outstanding amounts would be possible only with the intervention of the Member States concerned.**

8. The Secretary-General shall continue to seek the assistance of the concerned Member States in order to clear these long-outstanding amounts in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) account.

9. **In paragraph 78, the Administration agreed with the Board's recommendation to, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group, pursue initiatives within predetermined time frames to improve inter-agency procurement activities.**

10. Opportunities for further collaboration among United Nations organizations will be discussed at the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group meeting in June 2006.

11. **In paragraph 137, the Board recommended that the Administration shorten the contract-letting process between the submission of cases to Headquarters and the date of the final recommendation of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts.**

12. Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing. It is constrained by the lack of adequate resources. Additional resources, however, are being requested.

13. **In paragraph 151, the Board recommended that the Administration subject air carriers to an on-site review in a cost-effective manner, before adjudicating contracts.**

14. In addition to the comments of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations contained in paragraph 152 of the report, there has been a request by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for additional staffing resources in the submission of the support account budget for 2006-2007 to augment the current resources of the Air Transport Unit.

15. **In paragraph 171, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's recommendation that it implement measures to ensure that the technical compliance and inspection/performance evaluations were performed at all missions to ensure the carriers' compliance with aviation and safety requirements.**

16. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations confirms that field missions are current in the periodic submission of performance evaluation reports to Headquarters. The delay noted with respect to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) occurred during the start-up phase of the Mission and has since been corrected.

17. **In paragraph 207, the Board recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations reinforce the implementation of the rotation policy at peacekeeping missions where vehicles within the same categories were rotated to optimize efficiency and utility.**

18. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will remind field missions of the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of the Surface Transport Manual relating to the rotation of vehicles.

19. **In paragraph 218, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's recommendation that the implementation of CarLog, after the system's shortcomings have been adequately addressed, should be rolled out to all peacekeeping missions.**

20. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations wishes to clarify that the installation and maintenance of the CarLog system require significant investment. To ensure positive return on investment, the system is installed selectively. Missions with fewer vehicles and/or short expected lifespan do not generate sufficient benefits/savings to warrant the installation of the system. Additionally, the system is installed only on United Nations-owned vehicles. The Motor Transport Manual provides for the rules governing the use of field mission vehicles and stresses the importance of full compliance with the provisions of the Manual.

21. **In paragraph 240, the Board reiterated its recommendation that the Administration expedite the promulgation and implementation of its policies and procedures on strategic deployment stocks as a matter of priority.**

22. On 30 January 2006, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations expanded Senior Management Team approved the policies and procedures on strategic deployment stocks and the promulgation process is in progress.

23. **In paragraph 278, the Board recommended that the Administration continue to pursue and formalize the concept of integrated mission partnerships, and determine their function, structure and role as well as finalize guiding principles, policies and guidelines to govern integrated missions.**

24. Following extensive inter-agency consultations, a revised Note of Guidance on Integrated Missions was issued on 7 February 2006, which addresses the concerns expressed in the recommendation.

25. **In paragraph 284, the Board recommended that the Administration, using the United Nations Development Group platform, consult extensively with the United Nations country teams from the first phase of the mission-planning process to ensure that their specialized knowledge and expertise were utilized.**

26. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is revising the Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP). The United Nations Development Group Office has been closely affiliated with the revision process and the field perspective was duly taken into consideration. This project is scheduled to be completed by April 2006.

27. **In paragraph 289, the Board recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in collaboration with the relevant peacekeeping missions, develop and implement regional coordination plans aligned to the missions' objectives.**

28. This recommendation is not accepted. Inter-mission cooperation derives from mandated redress of issues directly related to regional/cross-border interests, and is both in accordance with and constrained by the individual mission mandate, limitations on resource-sharing and operational priorities. A "plan" for regional coordination as recommended by the Board of Auditors is not appropriate but, where useful, is undertaken through regular and systematic communications, information exchange, and political interventions to address arms control, illicit/foreign armed groups and other issues that are by definition "cross-border".

29. **In paragraph 323, the Board recommended that the Administration continue its efforts to address the shortcomings identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services review and expedite the full implementation of the recommendations.**

30. As acknowledged by the Board of Auditors, the missions had implemented 85 per cent of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services as at December 2005. While actions are ongoing for the remaining accepted recommendation, the five noted in paragraph 320 as outstanding pertain to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), which are closed missions.

31. **In paragraph 335, the Board recommended that the Administration monitor missions' compliance with leave policies and procedures and ensure that accurate leave records were maintained.**

32. The Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) peacekeeping gaps analysis revealed that IMIS had covered requirements for most time and attendance processing, but not for mission subsistence allowance (MSA) and leave records used in its calculation. The Steering Committee decided, at its meeting in May 2005, to defer moving ahead with the implementation of IMIS in peacekeeping missions pending the completion of the IMIS-enterprise resource planning (ERP) gaps study which was being commissioned. The outcome of the study would include a strategic approach to enterprise systems to replace IMIS and other administrative support systems. The study is expected to be completed in March 2006.

33. As mission subsistence allowance amounts are determined based on calculations reflecting the number of days staff members are present in the mission area, field missions frequently track time and attendance and maintain leave records through alternative systems (such as the Matrix system, designed to facilitate in the field the tracking of time and attendance and automate the necessary calculation, processing and tracking of mission subsistence allowance payments).

34. The above notwithstanding, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to provide close guidance to the missions. The Department has allocated dedicated resources to support training, user support and policy guidance for the field missions.

35. **In paragraph 385, the Board recommends that the Office of Internal Oversight Services refine its basis for allocating resources for the audit of peacekeeping missions.**

36. The Office of Internal Oversight Services will be guided by the outcome of the comprehensive review of its operations, functions and independence. This will be completed by end of April 2006 and will offer recommendations on metrics for determining adequate resourcing for the Office.

37. **In paragraph 388, the Board recommended that the Office of Internal Oversight Services expedite the filling of all posts to ensure that the units could execute the planned audit actions.**

38. This recommendation has been implemented. Interviews have been conducted and more are planned for the purpose of building a roster of qualified candidates.

39. **In paragraph 396, the Board recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations instruct missions to return to the Office of Internal Oversight Services the client satisfaction survey forms in order to facilitate the improvement of the audits and the cooperation between mission management and resident auditors.**

40. The instruction to implement this recommendation was faxed to all missions on 7 February 2006.

41. **In paragraph 402, the Board recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in close consultation with peacekeeping missions, carefully analyse the elements leading to reported fraud and properly take the necessary punitive measures, draw lessons and share those lessons systematically with other peacekeeping missions.**

42. In addition to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations noted in paragraph 403 of the report, there have been disciplinary/punitive actions already taken on 8 of the 18 fraud cases relating to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. While the disappearance of a staff member has made it impossible for any further action to be taken on that staff member's case, due process is ongoing with respect to the remaining nine cases.

43. **In paragraph 405, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure the accuracy and consistency of information reported on cases of fraud or presumptive fraud. The Board further recommended that the Administration confirm to the Board of Auditors the final list of fraud and presumptive fraud cases.**

44. The annual reminder sent out to all peacekeeping missions will stress strict compliance with the requirement of ensuring accurate and complete reporting of cases of fraud. It has been confirmed that the list submitted to the Board of Auditors by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts in connection with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone was accurate. According to the Mission, the differences in respect of three cases were due to the fact that (a) one case had pre-dated the reporting period and (b) two cases had been withdrawn.

45. **In paragraph 414, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that resident auditors at missions conduct reviews of the portfolio of evidence supporting results, on a test basis, to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the performance reports, thereby increasing their credibility.**

46. This recommendation will be implemented in the course of 2006. Implementation is planned for several missions throughout this year.

47. **In paragraph 424, the Board recommended that the Administration refrain from supplying obsolete or soon-to-be-obsolete equipment.**

48. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations monitors and ensures the serviceability of surplus non-expendable property items that are transferred to new or expanding missions to meet immediate operational requirements. The Department will continue to ensure compliance with the established rules relating to the transfer of non-expendable property items.

III. Time frames, office-holders and priorities

49. In paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/234, the Secretary-General was requested to include in future reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors information on the setting of time frames, the identification of office-holders, and priorities for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board.

50. In respect of time frames, every effort has been made by the Administration to establish target dates for completing the implementation of recommendations. However, the Administration considers a total of 27 cases to be ongoing tasks for which target dates for completion cannot be set. These recommendations primarily entail requests for compliance with procedures for routine functions such as reviewing obligations, management and ageing of receivables, bank and cash management practices, and evaluation of vendors.

51. With regard to prioritization, the Administration has noted that the Board categorized 20 of the 72 recommendations as "main" recommendations. While all accepted recommendations of the Board will be implemented in a timely manner, these main recommendations will be considered to be of the highest priority. Tables A and B below summarize status of implementation of recommendations as at February 2006.

Table A
Status of implementation of main recommendations

Department responsible	Number of recommendations	Not accepted	Completed	Ongoing	Target date set	No target date
DPKO	16		1	6	9	
DM	4			4		
Total	**20**		**1**	**10**	**9**	

Table B
Status of implementation of all recommendations

Department responsible	Number of recommendations	Not accepted	Completed	Ongoing	Target date set	No target date
DPKO	54	1	10	21	22	
DM	15			6	8	1
OIOS	3		1		2	
Total	**72**	**1**	**11**	**27**	**32**	**1**

Abbreviations: DPKO, Department of Peacekeeping Operations; DM, Department of Management; OIOS, Office of Internal Oversight Services.